FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 FEBRUARY 1986

Downing of Iranian Airliner; Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi jets shot down an Iranian passenger plane 20 February as it was approaching Ahvaz on a domestic flight from Tehran, killing all on board, IRNA reported. IRNA and Tehran radio reported that the chartered Aseman airliner had been carrying approximately 40 people, including 4 Majlis deputies and Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Fadhlollah Mahalati. An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Tehran radio later condemned the "criminal act," adding that the airliner had been carrying several clergymen.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman denied the Iranian allegation, claiming that Iraqi warplanes confined their attacks to military targets, INA reported. The Iraqi agency earlier reported that Iraqi fighters downed a "huge Iranian C-130 transport plane" in the Ahvaz area at approximately the same time Iran claimed it lost an airliner. In Ahvaz, control tower officials meanwhile told AFP that no civilian flights used Ahvaz airport.

In continued fighting in the south, Iraq claimed it "maintained the momentum" and continued to advance on the Al-Faw front, inflicting "grave losses" on Iranian forces, INA announced in separate reports. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said that Iranian counterattacks against Iraq's southern column and VII Army Corps front were "all wiped out," and that 104 Iranians also died in an attempted attack in the East Basra sector. In the air war, the communique claimed Iraqi planes hit four supply ships and the Khorramshahr-Abadan bridge 19 February. An Iraqi military spokesman admitted that Iraq has lost 6 planes since 9 February while claiming that Iran has lost 14 planes, INA reported. The agency also cited an Iraqi commander's claim that Iran has suffered 50,000 casualties in the VII Army Corps sector since the start of the offensive.

In contrast, Iran claimed in an IRNA report that 50 Iraqi warplanes have been shot down since 9 February. An Iranian Joint Staff communique cited by IRNA also charged that 14 civilians were killed when Iraqi planes bombed Sardasht.

In related developments, Iran's acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived in Damascus to discuss the war with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, IRNA reported. In Kuwait, the National Assembly denounced the Iranian incursion onto Iraqi territory, charging that the Iranian attack is a "gross danger to the region" that "paves the way for foreign interference," Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* reported.

Lebanon-Israel

An IDF sergeant was killed in southern Lebanon 20 February during the search for the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers, Jerusalem radio reported, citing an IDF spokesman. The spokesman said that eight "armed terrorists" also died in the gun battle with an IDF force searching the village of Srifa. An Amal statement earlier reported by Beirut radio acknowledged that 9 Amal members were killed and 17 others wounded in clashes with the Israelis. In other reports Jerusalem radio disclosed that a fifth "terrorist" died in the battle in Haris 19 February and that 10 other "terrorists" died in clashes with army of southern Lebanon troops in the Jazzin area 17-19 February. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that the IDF search operation in southern Lebanon "will not ease up until it finds the traces of the two missing soldiers and those who kidnapped them are punished."

PLO-Jordan

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is currently meeting with Palestinian leaders in Baghdad to discuss the 19 February speech by Jordan's King Husayn on Jordanian-PLO relations, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing a PLO spokesman. The spokesman added that the PLO will issue a statement on the king's speech at the end of the meeting. The radio earlier reported that 'Arafat asked Palestinians not to adopt a stance on the king's announcement at present. Nonetheless, head of the PLO's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi said in remarks reported by MENA that the Palestinians "cherish" their "special relations with fraternal Jordan" and have "no disagreement" with that state. Qaddumi claimed in a speech to Palestinians in Tunis that the United States is obstructing the search for a just peace in the Middle East, and he called for the convening of an emergency Arab summit conference, MENA added.

In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt is attempting to reconcile Palestinian and Jordanian views and is seeking to keep the peace process alive, MENA reported earlier. Meanwhile, Israel's Foreign Ministry said it viewed King Husayn's announcement not as an absolute break of relations by Jordan with the PLO but rather as a "separation period," IDF radio reported.

Libya-Chad

The agreement France and Libya signed on 16 September 1984 establishing a "red line" in Chad along the 16th parallel "is in no way binding on the Chadian people," according to a GUNT press communique broadcast by clandestine Bardai Chadian National Radio. Claiming that France's goal is to "partition or even erase Chad from the world map," the GUNT communique warned that France will be held responsible for "its gunboat diplomacy" and support for the "Ndjamena rebel group." In Paris, a French Air Force general said that the French bombing raid on the Libyan-built airstrip at Ouadi Doum in northern Chad 16 February put the airstrip completely out of action, AFP reported. Releasing photographs of bombs exploding on the runway, the French general stated that the airstrip was still unusable by warplanes 20 February. He also claimed that the Tupolev plane which attacked Ndjamena airport 17 February "could only have come" from the Libyan base at Sabha, the report added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 035 *21 February 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

- Palestinian Figures React To Husayn's Speech .... A 1
  - Qaddumi Blames United States *[MENA]* .... A 1
  - West Bank Figures Comment *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* .... A 1
  - 'Arafat 'Surprised' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* .... A 2
- Arab League Committee Meets With Perez de Cuellar *[Baghdad Voice of the Masses]* .... A 2

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

- National Assembly Issues Statement on Gulf War *[AL-QABAS 19 Feb]* .... C 1

OMAN

- Senegalese Official Arrives With Message .... C 1

PDRY

- Salim Salih Muhammad Addresses Al-Dali' Rally .... C 1
- Chairman Receives Yemeni Diplomatic Corps Chiefs .... C 2
- Minister Discusses Cooperation With Soviet Adviser .... C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

- Minister Calls for Resolution of Gulf War .... C 2

UAE

- Papers on King Husayn's Divergence From PLO .... C 3
- Iranian President Sends Message to Counterpart .... C 3

EGYPT

- Further on Visit by Queen, Foreign Minister of Denmark .... D 1
  - Mubarak, Queen Margrethe Meet .... D 1
  - Economic Agreement Signed .... D 1
- Jordan's King Husayn To Visit Cairo Soon *[QNA]* .... D 1
- Lutfi, Jordanian Ambassador Discuss Cultural Issues .... D 1
- Opposition Parties React to Jordan-PLO Differences .... D 1
- Further Comment .... D 2
- AL-AKHBAR Condemns Israeli Offensive in S. Lebanon .... D 2
- Ghali Returns From Francophone Conference .... D 2
- Chadian Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak .... D 2

IRAQ

- AFP Cites Sources on Downed Iranian Civilian Plane .... E 1
  - Baghdad Cites AFP .... E 1
  - Spokesman Denies Claims .... E 1
- Spokesman Defies Iran To Prove Planes Shot Down .... E 1

- Spokesman Denies Iranian Residential Areas Bombed .... E 1
- Saddam Husayn Tours VII Army Corps Sector .... E 2
- Arab, Other Correspondents Tour Umm al-Rasas .... E 2
- AL-RA'Y Interviews Iraqi Commander on Al-Faw Battles *[Amman 21 Feb]* .... E 2
- Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran .... E 2
  - 230 Air Raids Carried Out .... E 2
  - Spokesman Denies 4 Jets Downed .... E 3
  - 50,000 Iranian Dead, Wounded .... E 3
  - Commander on Naval Units Destroyed .... E 3
  - Communique No 2,123 Issued .... E 3

JORDAN

- Syrian President Contacts King Husayn 20 Feb .... F 1
- PDRY Minister Arrives With Message From Al-'Attas .... F 1
  - Conveys Message to Husayn .... F 1
  - Makes Statement, Departs .... F 1
- House of Representatives To Hold Emergency Session .... F 1
- SAWT AL-SHA'B on PLO's 'Inconsistent Behavior' .... F 1

LEBANON

- Al-Jumayyil on Talks With Mitterrand, Syria *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* .... G 1
- Al-Jumayyil Arrives in Morocco for Talks With King *[Radio Free Lebanon]* .... G 1
- MONDAY MORNING Interviews Nabih Birri on Issues *[17-23 Feb]* .... G 1
- NLP Leader Dany Sham'un Urges Syrians To Leave *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 4
  - Syrians Shell Christian Areas *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 4
- Syrian Role, Splits in West Beirut Analyzed *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 5
- Further on Clashes in Upper Al-Matn Area .... G 5
  - Army Positions Under Fire *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 5
  - 4 Killed, 25 Wounded *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 5
  - Violent Fighting Reported *[Radio Free Lebanon]* .... G 5
  - Cease-Fire Broken *[Voice of the Mountain]* .... G 6
- Speaker Al-Husayni, Deputies Leave for Kuwait .... G 6
- Daughter of French Hostage Summoned to Beirut *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 6
- Further on Fighting in South, Israeli Activities .... G 6
  - Israelis Leave Some Areas .... G 6
  - Israeli Gunboats Halt Ship .... G 6
  - Israelis in Western Al-Biqa' *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 6
  - Resistance Operations in South .... G 7
  - Roundup of Operations in South .... G 7
  - Israeli Force 'Wiped Out' .... G 7
  - 'Ferocious' Fighting Reported .... G 7
  - Amal on Israeli Casualties .... G 8
  - Amal SAM-7 Downs Helicopter .... G 8
  - Continued Fighting Reported .... G 8
  - Israelis Dismantling Headquarters .... G 8
- Communist Party Politburo Member Assassinated .... G 8
  - General Strike Called *[Voice of the Mountain]* .... G 8
  - Strike Marks Funeral .... G 9
  - Communists To Retaliate *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 9
- Communist Action Group Reemerges in West Beirut *[Radio Free Lebanon]* .... G 9
- Amal Warned on Kidnapping of Hizballah Official *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 9

SYRIA

- Tehran Reports Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus *[IRNA]* .... H 1
- Soviet Union Provides Army With 250 T-80 Tanks *[AL-ITTIHAD 19 Feb]* .... H 1
- Phalange Party Violates Lebanese Consensus .... H 1

ISRAEL

- Further Reportage, Commentary on Husayn Speech ..... I 1
  - W. Bank Parliamentarians Summoned to Amman ..... I 1
  - MK's Reactions ..... I 1
  - Further Foreign Ministry Reaction ..... I 1
  - Ilyas Frayj Comments ..... I 1
  - Further Details *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... I 2
  - AL-FAJR Editorial *[29 Feb]* ..... I 2
  - 'Slap' at 'Arafat *[AL-MITHAQ 20 Feb]* ..... I 3
  - Morning Editorials ..... I 3
  - Peres, Labor Party Members *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Feb]* ..... I 4
  - AL-TALI'AH: Abrogate Amman Agreement *[20 Feb]* ..... I 4
- Peres Supports New Economic Growth Phase ..... I 4
  - Alignment Supports Peres ..... I 5
- Continuing Reportage on Search for IDF Soldiers ..... I 5
  - Peres Says Search To Continue ..... I 5
  - 'Sabotage Material' Seized ..... I 5
  - UNIFIL Soldier Wounded ..... I 5
  - Commander Comments on Search ..... I 5
  - Further Details ..... I 6
  - U.S. Requests Freedom for UNIFIL ..... I 6
  - IDF Soldier Killed in Srifa Clash ..... I 6
  - Shi'ite Clerics, Hizballah Members Flee ..... I 6
  - General Or, Herzog Comment ..... I 7
  - 10 'Terrorists' Killed ..... I 7
- 'Secret' Talks Held With U.S. on 'Sensitive' Exports *[DAVAR 30 Feb]* ..... I 7

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

- Messaadia Meets with PLO's Salah Khalaf ..... Q 1

LIBYA

- Al-Qadhdhafi Sends 'Open Letter' to American People *[AFP]* ..... Q 1
- Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Sidra Maneuvres Participants ..... Q 1
- Jallud Addresses Forum on Confronting U.S., Israel ..... Q 1

MOROCCO

- Chamber Speaker Sends Message of Support to Iraq ..... Q 2
- Lebanese President Arrives for Private Visit ..... Q 2

SUDAN

- Daf'allah Comments on Austerity, IMF, USSR Ties ..... Q 3
- Foreign Affairs Minister on Rebels, Okello ..... Q 3
- Cabinet Discusses Strikes, Economic Topics ..... Q 3
- Trade Unions: Regime To Stay in Power Beyond 26 Apr *[AFP]* ..... Q 3
- Five Political Detainees Released From Prison ..... Q 4
- Chevron Official 'Disappointed' in Oil Exploration ..... Q 4
- Army Commander Ready for Talks With Garang *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Feb]* ..... Q 4
- Military Governor: Garang 'Not Active' in Darfur ..... Q 4
- Chadian Refugees Expected in Darfur Region ..... Q 4
- SPLA Radio Details Latest Operations ..... Q 5

TUNISIA

Chadian Official Arrives With Message for Bourguiba *[MAP]* .... Q 5
Prime Minister Returns From 'Useful' Paris Summit .... Q 5
Further Reportage on Visit of Algerian Delegation .... Q 6
    Mzali Appeals for Maghreb Unity *[L'ACTION 9 Feb]* .... Q 6
AL-BAYAN Interviews Prime Minister *[13 Feb]* .... Q 7
Education Minister on Future of Tunis University .... Q 8

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

Opposition Reports 'Massive Arrests'in Hargeisa *[Radio Halgan]* .... R 1

SUDAN

SPLA Forces Ambush Government Soldier 17 Feb *[Radio of the Sudanese People]* .... R 1

TANZANIA

Trade Facilities Remain Open for Landlocked Nations .... R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Chadian Minister Received by Biya, Talks to Press .... S 1
DPRK Delegation Arrives for Cooperation Talks .... S 1

CHAD

Libyan-Built Airstrip Said Eliminated by French *[AFP]* .... S 1
    Controversy After Bombing *[AFP]* .... S 2
Habre Government Thanks France for Aid .... S 3
GUNT Presidency Press Communique on French Policy .... S 3
Foreign Minister 'Satisfied' With French Aid *[AFP]* .... S 3
Bongo, Diouf To Talk to Al-Qadhdhafi Over Chad .... S 3
OAU Conference Requested To Examine Conflict .... S 4

CONGO

Sassou-Nguesso Leaves for Burkina Faso .... S 4

WEST AFRICA

BURKINO FASO

Congolese President Sassou-Nguesso Arrives for Visit .... T 1

GAMBIA

France Opens New French Language School *[AFP]* .... T 1

GHANA

PNDC Members Leave for CPSU Congress in Moscow .... T 1
Delegation Leaves for Havana Health Ministers' Meeting .... T 1

NIGERIA

No Plans To Renew Ties with Israel *[AFP]* .... T 1
Minister Concerned Over Work Stoppage at FRCN .... T 1

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Frontline States' Summit 'Postponed Indefinitely' .... U 1
Paper Says 3 UNITA Rebels To Die for Treason *[AFP]* .... U 1
UNITA Says 86 Government Troops Killed During Week *[AFP]* .... U 1

LESOTHO

Military Council Member Interviewed on Coup .... U 1

NAMIBIA

South African Spy Network Uncovered in SWAPO .... U 2
  Implicated SWAPO Official Detained *[SAPA]* .... U 2
16 SWAPO, 3 SWATF Members Killed in Skirmishes *[SAPA]* .... U 3

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Raid Mrs Mandela's House in Soweto .... U 3
Leutwiler Announces Debt Rescheduling Compromise .... U 3
  Stals Comments on Agreement .... U 3
  Tambo: Link Apartheid to Rescheduling *[Lusaka]* .... U 4
  Commentary Praises Agreement .... U 4
Tutu Said To Reject Donation Unless ANC Supported .... U 5
Vlok Issues Statement on Meeting With SACC Group .... U 5
Malan Says All Must Participate in Defense .... U 6
  Says Botswana's Fear Unfounded .... U 6
Ray Swart Named Leader of PFP Parliamentary Caucus .... U 7
New Transkei President Ndamase Sworn In .... U 7
  Delivers First Address .... U 7
Bill Gives President Power To Remove Restrictions *[Umtata]* .... U 7
Free Trade Areas Opening in Johannesburg, Durban .... U 7
  Johannesburg Hails Opening .... U 8
  Opening of Durban Praised .... U 8
  ASSOCOM Welcomes Free Trade Areas .... U 8
Poll Shows Urban Whites Accepting Open Schools .... U 8
Police Pledge No Mass Raids in Alexandra .... U 9
  Confirm Union Leader's Detention .... U 9
Mob of 80 Goes on Rampage Outside Durban .... U 9
2 Large Arms Caches Found in Free State .... U 10
Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports .... U 10
  Late 20 Feb .... U 10
  Early 21 Feb .... U 10
Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems .... U 10

Palestinian Figures React To Husayn's Speech

Qaddumi Blames United States

NC201844 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (MENA) — Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO's Political Department, has stated that the PLO Executive Committee will study some of the points raised in yesterday's speech by King Husayn of Jordan. He added that the committee will issue a statement on this matter.

In a speech to a Palestinian labor meeting in Tunis today, Qaddoumi accused the United States of obstructing the search for a just peace in the region, of disregarding the time factor, and of ignoring the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and their right to self-determination.

Qaddumi added that there is no disagreement with fraternal Jordan. Anyone who is trying to make out that such a disagreement exists is attempting to turn this issue into a media battle among the Arabs. He gave a warning against these attempts, the purpose of which is to tear the Palestinian people and leadership apart and cause further dissension among the Arabs.

Qaddumi emphasized that the right to self-determination is an absolute right of the Palestinian people. He pointed out that no one may claim that the Arab countries or any parties involved in the process are entitled to negotiate this right. Qaddumi stressed that the Palestinian leadership is also not entitled to abandon this right. All negotiations and talks must be limited by this factor.

Qaddumi went on to say: Our fundamental disagreement is with the United States. Israel is our enemy; we cherish our special relations with fraternal Jordan; But it is the United States that is causing problems over the definition of the Palestinian people's rights. He said: We are the ones to decide upon this matter. We are entitled to regain the lost rights for which we have been fighting for decades. Our legitimate rights include our right to self-determination, and our right to establish our own independent state within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. He continued: We recognize the two Security Council resolutions only on condition that the other resolutions regarding the Palestinian issue are also put into effect. Our answer to U.S.-Israeli disregard is the continuation of the armed struggle.

Qaddumi pointed out that the Americans want to bypass the PLO. They wish to see the Palestinian people disorganized and leaderless, so that they can tamper with their basic rights. He noted that the PLO has shown so much flexibility that it has become apprehensive of conceding too much.

Faruq Qaddumi said that an emergency Arab summit conference should be convened to discuss the current issues, so that a unified Arab stand could be adopted to enhance joint action.

In his speech, the Palestinian official praised Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He said that when all Arab countries closed their doors to the PNC meeting, fraternal Jordan welcomed it and hosted the meeting on its soil.

Touching on the question of coordination with Jordan, Qaddumi stated that the PLO had not reneged on its commitments to the resolutions that had been jointly adopted. He said that the resolutions were included in a joint working paper. This working paper approved all the UN resolutions pertaining to the Arab issue, on the basis of convening an effective international peace conference enjoying broad powers. He added that the paper emphasized the need for the recognition of the right to self-determination without foreign intervention and for the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties.

West Bank Figures Comment

JN201831 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1646 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] As part of the Palestinian reaction from inside the occupied homeland to the speech by Jordan's King Husayn last night on the Palestinian-Jordanian joint move and the reasons for the failure of the recent Palestinian-Jordanian talks from the Jordanian standpoint, Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri affirmed that the Palestine question cannot be divided. He said that the Palestine question is an integrated issue as far as the Palestinian people are concerned, whether they are inside or outside the homeland. He said that under no circumstances can those inside be separated from those outside the homeland and that ignoring the PLO in any settlement will not lead to a just, permanent peace in the region. He said: As far as I am concerned, I cannot imagine that the Palestinians in the occupied land would accept what the PLO rejects.

Engineer 'Adnan Shuqayr, president of the agricultural engineers union in the West Bank, said: In my opinion, this recent move was expected. The PLO's rejection of Security Council Resolution 242 is its right as well as being a natural and logical stand. He said that the PLO would be relinquishing its rights by accepting this resolution. Moreover, the king's speech did not contain anything new. It merely indicated that all that had been taking place was mere maneuvers. The objective of Jordan and the United States was to pull the rug out from under our sole, legitimate representative, the PLO. We affirm that we in the occupied land stand by our representative, the PLO, and by the Palestinian legitimacy, under Brother Yasir 'Arafat, because it is the patron of our interests and our national, legitimate rights.

Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, Shafa 'Amr mayor and president of the regional committee of the Arab local authorities, said that the PLO derived its credibility and legitimacy from the Palestinians inside and outside the homeland. He said that the PLO is a loyal guardian of the Palestinian interest. He said that the Palestinians are the ones who decide on what they deem suitable and that there is no one who is more concerned about the Palestinian people's interests than the PLO. He said that the PLO decides on what it deems appropriate within the framework of the basic Palestinian principles, which it endorsed and to which it adheres. Our belief in the PLO is absolute.

Attorney Jamil 'Uthman Nasir, former president of the lawyers association on the West Bank, explained that the Palestinian people have chosen the PLO as their sole, legitimate representative and the party which is qualified to represent them and achieve their demands and national aspirations. Moreover, the Palestinian people have placed their complete confidence in the legitimate PLO leadership. He said that the PLO was and still is serious about the search for a just peaceful settlement and has exhibited great political flexibility by announcing its stands on and acceptance of UN resolutions. However, political flexibility does not mean reliquishing the inalienable and agreed upon rights based the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to establish their own independent Palestinian state on their national soil.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said an encroachment on the PLO representation is unlikely as long as the Arab countries adhere to the Rabat summit resolutions adopted in 1974. Moreover, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is a foregone conclusion.

'Arafat 'Surprised'

JN211129 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today reacted to King Husayn's 19 February speech announcing the suspension of Jordanian- Palestinian talks. In a telephone conversation with the newspaper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, 'Arafat said that King Husayn had surprised all by his speech and wanted to place Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's envoy and PLO envoy in Amman Hani al-Hasan before a fait accompli by delivering the speech prior to the arrival of the Egyptian and Palestinian envoys.

Asked about the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which was signed in Amman in February 1985, 'Arafat said that he adheres to the bonds which link the destiny of both the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. However, he added, everything depends on King Husayn's viewpoint regarding this agreement. He added that a special PLO committee is preparing a reply to King Husayn's speech and that the PLO leadership willmeet to discuss these developments, but this meeting may be delayed as the Arab countries are preoccupied with the Gulf war.

Arab League Committee Meets With Perez de Cuellar

JN201413 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] New York — The members of the Arab League seven-member follow-up committee held a meeting last night with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The seven-member committee delegation, which is headed by Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, comprised Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, Saudi state minister; Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian foreign minister; Sulayman Shahin, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary; Mehdi Alaoui, Moroccan UN representative; and Muhammad Salam Basindah, YAR UN representative.

In a statement following the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz said that the meeting explained to Perez de Cuellar the Arab League's stand on the escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, particularly the recent Iranian aggression on Iraqi territory. He added that the committee recommended that the UN Security Council adopt a firm resolution leading to a comprehensive settlement of the dispute between the two countries to be based on the UN Charter and principles of international law.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that the UN secretary general showed an understanding of the Arab stand and that the UN Security Council is currently formulating a draft resolution on which prolonged delibrations will be held before voting on it at the Security Council.

In a similar statement, Perez de Cuellar expressed hope that his talks with the committee members would contribute to boosting efforts to find a peaceful solution to the dispute between Iraq and Iran.

KUWAIT

National Assembly Issues Statement on Gulf War

GF201640 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Feb 86 p 4

[Text of Kuwaiti National Assembly statement issued following the conclusion of its closed session on 18 February]

[Text] After the National Assembly listened to the government's statement on the dangerous developments of the Iraq-Iran war, the assembly confirmed the contents of the previous statement issued by the National Assembly and the government on 11 February. While the assembly confirms support for the contacts currently being held by the government to contain this destructive war and prevent its evils and hazards from harming the region, the assembly stresses its denunciation of the recent Iranian incursions into the territories of fraternal Iraq, which constitutes a gross danger to the region as whole and paves the way for foreign interference.

During the current critical circumstances which our region is passing through, the assembly affirms the need to ensure cohesion and bolster the internal front to ward off any danger that threatens the homeland. This can only be attained by making every citizen consider his responsibilities toward his country and preserve it from the dangers and the rumors designed to harm its power and cohesion.

As the assembly values the contacts undertaken by the government with the fraternal and friendly countries, it hopes that these contacts will continue to ensure protection and safeguard the region. The assembly and the government agreed to jointly follow up the developments in the region and to exchange views.

OMAN

Senegalese Official Arrives With Message

GF201636 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Haj Moustapha Yarang, envoy of the Senegalese president and head of the Islamic Progressive Union, arrived in Muscat today carrying a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

PDRY

Salim Salih Muhammad Addresses Al-Dali' Rally

GF200910 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A massive popular demonstration was held in Al-Dali' District yesterday in which all toiling sectors of the people — workers, peasants, soldiers, and students — participated. They carried expressive posters and the portraits of the struggling martyrs who were martyred in the unsuccessful 13 January coupist plot carried out by the schemer 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his bloody gang. The demonstration was crowned by a mass rally and speech attended by brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of defense; and a number of the brother members of the YSP Central Committee and governorate officials.

Amid a storm of applause, brother Salim Salih Muhammad spoke to the massed crowds. He greeted the high struggle and revolutionary spirit of the district's masses. He affirmed that the YSP and the revolution's government will remain loyal to our valiant heroes who fell on bloody 13 January so that the revolutionary line would be victorious. Foremost among these is the martyr struggler 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, Salih Muslih Qasim, and 'Ali Shayi' Hadi.

He conveyed to the masses in the district the greetings of the YSP Central Committee and Political Bureau on the victory which our party and people have achieved. He said: This district, and other districts in the governorate, have had the honor of actively contributing to the achievement of this victory. You stood one row behind another with your hands on the trigger in order to foil this conspiracy, to destroy its instigators, and to achieve victory. He said that this proves the elevated political level of the strugglers and masses in the governorate, their great revolutionary vigilance, and their loyalty to the YSP and its collective leadership. He said that all these qualities have been used in the nationalist and class struggle, beginning with the popular resistance against the British and their agents in 1947, 1948, and 1959, and passing through the contribution to the defense of the glorious 26 September, and [word indistinct] the armed revolution on 14 October [word indistinct] the pan-Arab front, consolidating national stability, and rejecting rightist and leftist opportunist deviations which were aimed at harming the revolution's and party's policy line.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad reviewed the dangers and dimensions of the abortive coupist plot and past actions carried out by the bloody coupist clique. The coupist clique did this to void our revolution's progressive significance, to usurp authority individually by deviating from the course of our progressive system and moving toward capitalism, which cannot possibly bring to our people anything but misery, persecution, and tyranny. This clique used revolutionary terms which concealed a flagrant hostility to the heroes of scientific socialism. He ['Ali Nasir Muhammad] developed a media organ which applauded him. He also violated laws and suspended many others. He acted presumptuously toward the YSP's program and its internal rules. He supported and encouraged consumer trends in society, and created [word indistinct] and bureaucratic groups in the party, and in administrative and military systems. He encouraged the sabotaging of public property, disputes, and bribery, buying off weak-spirited people and turning them into mercenaries. He said that the hopes and ambitions of the conspirator 'Ali Nasir have failed by virtue of the vigilance and awareness of the YSP party members whose destiny is linked to the interests and future of the workers, peasants, and toilers in our country, [words indistinct] the heroes of scientific socialism, and the awareness, cohesiveness, and courage of the military and security institutes and [words indistinct] the party's principles.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad pointed out that the organization of party and government affairs has begun and also repairs to the damage caused by the scheming clique in various fields.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad called on the masses and the institutions to organize initiatives and collect donations to rebuild and repair what has been destroyed in the capital Aden by the scheming gang of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

He expressed satisfaction with the fraternal stands adopted from the very first moment against any foreign intervention by our brothers in the northern part of the homeland, foremost of whom is brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. He asserted that the dialogue aiming at providing the appropriate conditions and circumstances to achieve national unity on peaceful and democratic foundations will continue.

He greeted the efforts made by the brothers in Syria, Algeria, Libya, and the PLO, and their solidarity with our people from the very first moment of the unsuccessful coupist conspiracy. He affirmed the continued joint struggle in order to confront imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and provocations against our Arab peoples.

He affirmed the relationship of the one trench between the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia and the continuation of the struggle relations based on the friendship and joint cooperation agreement.

He highly valued the supportive stands adopted by the brothers and friends in the difficult circumstances through which we are living, foremost of whom is the friendly USSR.

In conclusion, he asserted that we will continue to adhere to our foreign policy as outlined by the YSP documents and which is based on peaceful coexistence and internationalistic solidarity in order to avert wars, hotbeds of tension, and for the sake of achieving peace in the region.

During the rally, the secretary of the YSP organization in the district made a speech. He reviewed the courageous stands of the district's citizens in confronting the 13 January bloody plot. He reaffirmed the continued struggle to eliminate the damage caused by the scheming and bloody coupist clique, and to mobilize all energies and capabilities in order to carry out all the tasks with which the district is charged.

The son of the martyr struggler 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar also delivered a speech on behalf of the martyrs' sons. He said that we have lost our historical leaders. However, we have inherited a vanguard party, which is the leader of our progressive march.

Following that, brother Salim Salih Muhammad and his escort visited the houses of the martyr strugglers 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar; 'Ali Shayi' Hadi; and Sayil Muthanna. He offered condolences to their families. He affirmed that the party and the state will provide every care and attention to their families.

Chairman Receives Yemeni Diplomatic Corps Chiefs

GF201943 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met tonight with the chiefs of our overseas diplomatic corps.

During the meeting, the brother chairmen of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and the Council of Ministers briefed the members of our diplomatic corps on the nature of the aborted coup conspiracy, led by conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his fascist gang, and the stages of its preparation and execution, its aims and dangerous dimensions upon the struggle of our people and the collective leadership of the YSP and our entire political, economic, cultural, and social state. They also explained the current situation and developments in the region, Arab and international arenas, and our country's stance on them. They affirmed the stance of the brothers and friends on the painful incidents our people faced and the diplomatic move required by this stage to clarify the coup conspiracy and its results.

Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas affirmed the need to deal with the brothers and friends in a clear way, according to our country's policy and stances. During this meeting a number of measures were taken to strengthen the role of our diplomatic corps overseas.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister; a number of party and state officials; and directors of Foreign Ministry departments.

Minister Discusses Cooperation With Soviet Adviser

GF201736 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Salih 'Abdallah Muthanna, minister of transport, met in his office today with Comrade (Denar) Kadyrov, economic counselor at the USSR Embassy in Aden. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two countries in the field of communications and transport and the means of expanding and strengthening it.

SAUDI ARABIA

Minister Calls for Resolution of Gulf War

GF201728 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The United Nations, 20 Feb (SPA) — Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, called on the UN Security Council to adopt a stringent measure by issuing a resolution that expresses the gravity of the continuation of the bitter dispute between Iraq and Iran and that provides a practical and strong momentum for the action shouldered by the UN Security Council to pave the way to terminate this war between Iraq and Iran.

In a speech he delivered during a UN Security Council session, he called on the council to adopt a stringent measure not only concerning the new escalation of the military operations, but also concerning endeavors to nullify peace efforts and to foil the efforts undertaken by the international organizations to end this war. He added: We hope that Iran and its responsible leadership — which is capable of reaching a cease-fire resolution and of acting according to Islamic principles so as not to shoulder the responsibility of continuing one of the greatest tragedies of the Islamic nation. [sentence incomplete as received]

He pointed out that Iraq announces repeatedly its readiness to cease fire to hammer out a peaceful solution through negotiations. He urged Iran to postively respond to the peace efforts sponsored by the UN Security Council, the UN secretary general, and all of the international organizations. He also called on Iran to implement the UN resolutions based on international border sovereignty to preserve the safety of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples and ensure the safety and security of the region.

He expressed hope that the international community would adopt a decisive resolution in its endeavors to end the war. He asserted that the goal behind these calls is to attain good for all of the region's people, foremost being the people of Iraq and Iran who have tolerated hardships in a war from which no one will benefit and for which there will be no victor. He then lauded the successful mediation which the UN secretary general had launched to end the war of the cities between Iraq and Iran, which was positvely accepted by both sides.

UAE

Papers on King Husayn's Divergence From PLO

GF201309 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAM) — Three UAE papers today comment on King Husayn's announcement concerning the discontinuation of political coordination and joint endeavors with the PLO leadership. They urge that this announcement by viewed within the perspective of having the right to one's view and demanded that there be no difference over the Israeli-U.S. danger which is lying in wait for everyone.

The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* urges the opening of other doors through which the dearest and most precious principle, the principle of common destiny, is consecreated. It says: Since the difference in opinion does not spoil intimate relations, what has happened must be a matter of respect for views and not a matter of break in relations.

The newspaper *AL-WAHDAH* states that the Jordanian announcement did not surprise anyone, because anyone who has observed the trends of the Palestinian leadership throughout the past stage, must come to the conclusion that there is a ceiling to this political relationship.

The paper specifies the ceiling of this relationship by saying that there is a red line before the PLO, the features of which were drawn by the PNC, and which says that no Palestinian leader may cross it by recognizing Resolution 242, which denies the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The paper notes that this red line prevents any Palestinian leader from recognizing Israel in return for admission that the Palestinian cause is merely a question of refugees.

AL-WAHDAH expresses hope that Jordanian-Palestinian relations will not deteriorate.

It says: "We hope that bilateral relations will not follow the road which leads to a break to avoid the negative impact which may occur.

The interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and their historical ties are more important than any other matter."

The paper states that the general Arab situation is bad and worsening. In such a situation we can no longer tolerate further shocks and new differences which weaken any already weak entity.

In conclusion, the paper asserts that the difference in political views is always likely. It expresses the belief that there is no disagreement over the Israeli-U.S. danger which lies in wait for everyone.

The newspaper *AL-FAJR* states that the fall of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was expected because it faced a deadlock on the part of the Israeli side, which is supported by the United States.

The paper refers the responsibility for the fall of the agreement to the incapability to change the Israeli attitude "the aims of which the U.S. stand is an expression and a fulfillment."

The paper notes the basis on which the Amman agreement was founded, that is, the emphasis on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination within a confederation between Jordan and Palestine.

It says: "When the agreement was signed, there was hope that it would succeed in persuading Israel to return the occupied territories in exchange for peace, which it alleges to be its desire, and in persuading the United States to change its stand toward the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people, and exercise its influence over Israel to accept this proposed formula for a settlement as part of an international conference.

The paper expresses confidence that if King Husayn believes in trying, he will certainly appreciate the keenness of the PLO's leadership to not go into such an adventure, the results of which appear very clear even before the adventure begins.

Iranian President Sends Message to Counterpart

GF201157 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, under secretary at the UAE Foreign Ministry, has received a verbal message addressed to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message deals with the situation in the region and relations between the two countries.

The message was conveyed today by Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of the political affairs directorate for Arab and African countries who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi, during his meeting with Shaykh Hamdan.

The Iranian envoy briefed Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid on the outcome of the talks he held with officials in Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain and on the situation on the battlefront.

Further on Visit by Queen, Foreign Minister of Denmark

Mubarak, Queen Margrethe Meet

NC201556 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held talks with Queen Margrethe II of Denmark at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah this morning. The Egyptian and Danish delegations also met for discussions, which were attended on behalf of Egypt by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ambassador Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi, under secretary for Western European affairs at the foreign ministry; and Ambassador Mamduh Zaki, Egypt's envoy to Denmark. Denmark was represented by Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Danish Ambassador to Cairo William Thune Andersen, the ambassador's assistant for commerical affairs, the Foreign Minister's private secretary, and other foreign ministry officials.

Following a 90-minute session of talks, Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi stated that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed the importance of the European role in accelerating the movement for peace in the Middle East. He also said that European countries could help to reconcile the various viewpoints on this issue in such a way as to facilitate the holding of an international conference on the Middle East.

According to Hijazi, Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized the need to press for an end to the Gulf war. The foreign minister made a reference to the potentially destabilizing effects of Iran's activities in the region.

For this part, the Danish foreign minister registered his country's appreciation of the efforts being exerted by Egypt and President Mubarak to bring about a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

According to Ambassador Hijazi, the two delegations urged increased cooperation between the two countries in all fields. They also agreed on the need to increase Egyptian exports to Denmark in order to balance their bilateral trade account.

The foreign ministers of both countries were present at the meeting between President Mubarak and Queen Margrethe for part of the time, as were the Egyptian ambassador to Denmark and the Danish ambassador to Egypt.

Economic Agreement Signed

NC201622 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Egypt and Denmark signed an economic agreement today according to which Egypt will receive a $47 million loan. Of this amount, $26 million is repayable on easy terms; the agreement allows for an interest-free grace period of 7 years. The loan, which is to be repaid within 25 years, will be used to finance the re-equipment and expansion of the Suez thermal power plant, which will cost $90 million. The Danish Government will contribute $47 million to this project, Sweden a further $28 million, the Nordic Investment Bank $10 million, and the Egyptian Electricity Corporation $5 million.

Jordan's King Husayn To Visit Cairo Soon

GF201221 Doha QNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 20 Feb (QNA) — Press reports today said that they expect King Husayn of Jordan to arrive in Cairo within the next few days to resume the talks that Egypt is holding with the PLO and Jordan. These talks aim at bringing closer the view of the Jordanian king and the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat concerning future moves to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* today quotes diplomatic sources in Cairo as saying that the King Husayn-'Arafat talks held in Jordan recently did not achieve positive results. This made more likely the postponement of the tripartite summit due to be held by President Mubarak, King Husayn, and 'Arafat, provided that bilateral contacts will be held between 'Arafat and Mubarak, then between Mubarak and Husayn in order to bring closer the points of view regarding the next move.

Lutfi, Jordanian Ambassador Discuss Cultural Issues

NC201208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi received Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Hasan Hamami in his office at noon today. They reviewed the proposed steps to implement the cultural cooperation protocol signed by the two countries. They also talked about accepting Jordanian students at Egyptian universities, and discussed the invitation extended to Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan to visit Jordan.

Opposition Parties React to Jordan-PLO Differences

NC201859 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 feb (MENA) — Egypt's opposition parties today expressed deep regret that coordination between Jordan and the PLO had been halted. The existing situation requires that a third party play the role of mediator between these two sides, party officials stated, noting that Egypt is the most qualified Arab country to undertake such a role.

Dr Nu'man Jum'ah, assistant secretary general of the Wafd Party, expressed his party's regret at this new development. Coordination between Jordan and the PLO had provided a ray of hope for achieving a solution to the Palestinian problem, he added.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi, deputy leader of the Liberal Party, said that Egypt should endeavor to put an end to Jordanian-Palestinian differences.

Dr Hilmi Murad, deputy leader of the Socialist Labor Party, called on Arabs to bring the views of the PLO and Jordan closer together during the next stage. The sharp differences could lead to serious consequences for the region that will only benefit Israel, he warned. Dr Hilmi Murad added that Egypt is the only country currently qualified to play a mediating role to solve this crisis.

The NPUG Central Secretariat will meet on Saturday to discuss this serious development in the Palestinian issue. The Labor Party leadership and participants at an expanded session of the Wafd Party will also discuss this development in meetings scheduled for tomorrow.

Further Comment

NC210016 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Both the *AL-AHRAM* and *AL-JUMHURIYAH* newspapers have expressed hope that dialoguue and consultations between Jordan and the PLO will continue. The papers also hope that the current limited differences will not expand and thereby intensify the scope of Arab dissension.

In Friday's issue, *AL-AHRAM* says that regardless of the motives and reasons that have prompted Jordan to terminate [inha' al-'amal] the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement [as received], and despite the plots and pressures that have prevented the moderate wing of the Palestinian leadership from proceeding along the road to peace, the ultimate loser will be the Palestinian cause. This cause is in danger of becoming obsolete with the passage of time.

The paper expresses the hope that Arab leaders will wake up and try to put an end to their differences. They must unite to confront Israel's expansionist schemes, which seek to separate the Palestinian people from their land, swallow up Palestinian soil, and penetrate into south Lebanon.

Egypt's appeal to stick to the historic opportunity for peace throughout 1985, the paper emphasizes, proceeded from its concern that failure to cling to such a chance would only lead to a situation like the present, the collapse of the agreement, and the failure to coordinate.

Commenting on the same subject, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that Jordan might have reasons that would justify King Husayn's declaration to halt coordination with the PLO and to terminate [as received] the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. As an organization leading the national revolution of an oppressed people, the paper adds, the PLO also has the right to carefully gauge its moves. After all, the paper notes, no one expects the stands adopted by a revolution with regard to such a decisive matter to be in harmony with those of a state.

The paper continues: Despite the fact that disagreement represents a healthy sign, the creation of problems and political battles is a serious Arab disease that must be eliminated as quickly as possible. In this respect, the paper calls on all the Arab parties concerned to bring their views closer together and put an end to contradictions among all Arabs, and not just between Jordan and the PLO.

The adoption of unified stands is the only choice possible, the paper affirms, [words indistinct] is a great risk that will affect the destiny of all Arabs and Palestinians from the ocean to the Gulf.

AL-AKHBAR Condemns Israeli Offensive in S. Lebanon

NC202308 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — The *AL-AKHBAR* newspaper has condemned the new Israeli offensive against the villages of south Lebanon in which planes, tanks, and gunboats are being used. The paper ridicules Israel's claims that the objective of the attack is to search for two missing Israeli soldiers, who have been kidnapped or captured in an ambush by Lebanese National Resistance men. The paper wonders: Is that a sufficient justification for Israel to storm 18 villages without any consideration for their inhabitants?

In its Friday issue, *AL-AKHBAR* emphasizes that these attacks indicate that Israel's occupation forces only withdrew in order to seek stronger positions. The paper goes on to say that this offensive refutes all Israeli claims about secure borders. It is also clear message to the world community that more effective deterrent measures must be found to counter this Israeli unconcern, in accordance with the rules and norms of international law. The paper calls on the Lebanese people to wake up and find a way to rescue Lebanon, instead of resorting to fighting out of sectarian arrogance and personal whim.

Ghali Returns From Francophone Conference

NC202229 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned home from Paris this evening. Minister Ghali led Egypt's delegation to the French-speaking countries' conference, which ended in Paris yesterday. In an arrival statement, Minister Ghali said that he will submit a report on the outcome of the conference to Persident Husni Mubarak. He added that the conference had been successful. African issues as well as ways of bolstering various forms of cooperation among African states were discussed during the meetings. He emphasized that Egypt was represented at the conference because of its interest in African problems and its contribution to the search for solutions to these problems. He added that he had held detailed discussions with the heads of the delegations taking part, and that the purpose of these talks was to explain Egypt's viewpoint on African issues and the situation in the Middle East.

Chadian Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC202146 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] (Mohamed Nouri), the personal envoy of Chadian President Hissein Habre, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt expected to last for several days. He told our correspondent that he has brought a message from President Habre to President Husni Mubarak. The message deals with the recent course of events in his country and Libyan intervention in Chadian internal affairs. The envoy said that large areas of Chadian territory are under Libyan occupation. Chad, he added, had asked that this issue and the recent developments in the country be discussed at the coming OAU foreign ministers meeting, which is due to open in Addis Ababa on Tuesday.

AFP Cites Sources on Downed Iranian Civilian Plane

NC201830 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 20 (AFP) — In Baghdad, officials said Iraq had shot down an Iranian C-130 Hercules transport plane in the Ahvaz region and an F-4 fighter-bomber in a sector occupied by the 7th Iraqi Army Corps. IRNA said a personal representative of Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni was also on board the Fokker Fairchild, which was reportedly hit at midday and exploded in the air a few kilometres (miles) from Ahvaz, the regional capital of Khuzestan.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fadhlollah Mahalati, the ayatollah's representative to the Revolutionary Guards militia was on the plane chartered from Iranseman Company, the agency said.

Officials at the Ahvaz control tower said a plane had been lost and that a search was underway to identify and locate the craft, but added that no civilian flights used the airport. The airport "had been changed into a hospital" and only wounded people were flown out, the officials said.

Iran Air said it had no flights to Ahvaz and the airport control tower here said there was no civilian service to Ahvaz.

An Iranian pilot said he thought the plane would have been a Hercules C-130 transport used by the Iranian Air Force to carry wounded from the front. If it had been flying from Tehran to Ahvaz, there would not have been many people on board, he said.

Iran said "the Baghdad regime has added another chapter to the collection of its crimes and violations of international conventions" by shooting down a civilian airliner.

Two airline companies, Iran Air and Asseman, operate domestic flights in Iran.

Baghdad Cites AFP

JN201739 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brothers, AFP has said that Fadhlollah Mahalati, Khomeyni's representative on the Guards Corps, and a number of Iranian Majlis deputies were killed today. In a report citing the Iranian regime's news agency, AFP added that the military plane downed by our fighter planes today was returning from the battlefield in the Iranian southern sector carrying Mahalati and the Iranian deputies. AFP did not mention the names of the deputies killed with Mahalati.

Spokesman Denies Claims

JN201625 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied that Iraqi planes downed any Iranian civilian planes today. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that the Iraqi Air Force operations were confined to striking military targets in the southern sector of Iran and on the battlefield. He said that what has been reported by IRNA in this regard is an exposed lie.

The spokesman added: If what has been disseminated by IRNA were true, the Tehran Airport control tower would have been the first to know of the incident.

The control tower, replying to a question by AFP following the IRNA report on the downing of a plane, denied knowledge of any downing of a civilian plane today.

The spokesman indicated that the Iranian war information office also did not support what was reported by IRNA in its replies to questions by AFP.

Spokesman Defies Iran To Prove Planes Shot Down

JN211202 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has defied Iranian rulers to prove that any Iraqi plane was downed today. He added: We in Iraq do not hesitate to announce our losses of aircraft, if there are any, out of our commitment toward our people and world public opinion.

He indicated that the Iranian rulers find no other way to deceive the Iranian people but through cheap lies in which they cover their losses amounting to tens of thousands, the bodies of which can be seen daily on television.

The military spokesman stressed that Iraqi planes carried out 230 raids today without losing a single plane. He added that the Iranian rulers who pretend to be men of religion have no other trade except that of lies and deterioration in the quagmire of vice and baseness. Their claim that they downed five Iraqi planes today is a baseless fabrication which they reiterate shamelessly.

Spokesman Denies Iranian Residential Areas Bombed

JN201249 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has refuted Iranian claims that Iraqi aircraft strafed residential areas in northwestern Iran yesterday.

The spokesman said that the Iraqi Air Force has not carried out any missions against civilian targets whether in northwestern Iran or anywhere else. He emphasized that the four Iranian camps which the Iraqi planes attacked are not considered civilian targets but vital military utilities where troops are assembled and weapons stock-piled.

The military spokesman said that contrary to what it claims, the Iranian enemy yesterday sent two planes to bomb populated areas in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in northern Iraq.

The Iranians also shelled the populated area of Abu al-Khasib with heavy artillery, he concluded.

Saddam Husayn Tours VII Army Corps Sector

JN202114 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] We have just received the following

President Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has inspected the VII Army Corps sector. The president was briefed on the measures and arrangements our triumphant forces have taken to confront and defeat the Iranian aggression during his meeting with Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; a number of Armed Forces General Command members at the front; the commander of the VII Army Corps; and the field commanders.

His excellency visited the port of Umm Qasr, where he greeted our valiant fighters there. The fighters pledged to the president that they will exert their utmost so that Iraq will remain proud and free under its courageous, historic leadership.

The president made a brief speech in which he saluted a number of Air Force men and naval forces personnel. He said: We follow your heroic actions on the enemy's left flank in detail. We also follow your action on the right flank and elsewhere. In this battle, as in all big battles, all hands must take part and must coordinate their action in order to achieve good reuslts. God willing the results will be as you wish them to be.

His excellency then inspected one of our naval formations in the Umm Qasr harbor. He also inspected the harbor and witnessed the high morale of our naval forces' fighters and their readiness to defeat the enemy's naval force and to teach it the lesson it deserves.

His excellency boarded one of the gunboats in the harbor and inspected the boats' weapons and military equipment and witnessed their ability to deal deadly blows to enemy naval units and boats.

The president also visited the command center of the Al-Faris where he witnessed the high readiness and combat ability of our brave forces.

The hero fighters whom the president visited renewed their pledge to his excellency to remain true to their principles and carry out all kinds of duties until the rapacious invaders are defeated and their forces are thwarted forever.

Arab, Other Correspondents Tour Umm al-Rasas

JN201954 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Press delegations and Arab and foreign news agency correspondents visited Umm al-Rasas Island in the VII Army Corps sector today. The journalists and correspondents acquainted themselves with the heavy losses in life and equipment our heroic Armed Forces have inflicted on the attacking invaders.

The correspondents also toured the front lines opposite the despotic enemy and witnessed our valiant fighters' high morale and their insistence on defending the soil of the precious homeland.

AL-RA'Y Interviews Iraqi Commander on Al-Faw Battles

JN210858 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Feb 86 pp 1, 21

[*AL-RA'Y* team dispatch from Al-Faw, southern Iraq]

[Excerpt] Staff Lieutenant General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, commander of southern column operations in the Al-Faw area, has said that the Iranians mounted their recent aggression in order to seize the Umm Qasr port and threaten Arab Gulf states, including Kuwait.

In a statement to *AL-RA'Y* while leading the battle to liberate Al-Faw yesterday, Al-Fakhri said that the comprehensive offensive mounted by the Iraqi VII Army Corps is very quietly putting pressure on the Iranian enemy in Al-Faw to defeat the aggressors and push them back to the international border. He stated that 150,000 Iranians took part in this aggression and that about one-third has so far been added to them. [sentence as published]

He added that the Iranian enemy used all of its military capabilities in this offenisve and did not spare a small boat or an aircraft, indicating that the enemy used chemical weapons against the Iraqi Army at 1000 yesterday.

He said the Iranians are in control of less than 200 square km in Al-Faw and added: We are pursuing them and the battle is mostly one of infantry and Air Force because the topography of the area does not allow for a great dependence on armor. The Iranians are also depending on anti-tank weapons and set up combat lines at intervals of only 30 meters.

Al-Fakhri ruled out an Iranian offensive elsewhere because they have concentrated their military impact on the Al-Faw area, adding that this is one of the historic and strategic battles which is important for Iraq. By ending it, he said, the Iraqi Army can practically destroy Iranian military power, which he called an ill wind, for a long time.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

230 Air Raids Carried Out

JN211147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1137 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes have carried out 230 destructive raids on Iranian forces' positions and concentrations in the Iraqi VII Army Corps front since this morning and up to 1400 [1100 GMT] today.

An Iraqi military spokesman said a short while ago that Iraqi fighter planes destroyed large quantities of weapons, equipment, and hardware and inflicted massive losses on Iranian personnel.

Spokesman Denies 4 Jets Downed

JN201240 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1226 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims on the downing of four Iraqi planes. The spokesman said that only one Iraqi plane fell on the battlefield today and that the Iranian side is held responsible for the safety of its pilot.

He added that when the Iranians lie by minimizing their losses they also lie in exaggerating the size of our losses. However, he said, facts will certainly be exposed to the Iranian people and the world public. Moreover, the Iranian regime cannot conceal the fact that tens of thousands of Iranian troops have been wiped out so far.

The spokesman said that Iraq has lost 6 planes since the beginning of the Iranian aggression on 9 February whereas 14 Iranian planes have been destroyed so far.

50,000 Iranian Dead, Wounded

JN201900 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Basra, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military commander has announced that the Iraqi forces killed or wounded 50,000 Iranian troops in the recent Iranian aggression on the VII Army Corps sector. The commander of the southern column told the INA team today that Iraqi forces in the VII Army Corps sector are currently tightening their siege on the Iranian forces and their defeated remnants. He said the Iranian forces have two options: either to flee the battlefield or die at the hands of our forces, affirming that this battle will be Iran's last battle. The commander said that the current military situation is in favor of the Iraqi forces and that the Iranian regime's aims, which prompted it to commit aggression on Iraq, will soon meet with abject failure.

Commander on Naval Units Destroyed

JN201259 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Staff Colonel Usamah 'Abd al-Majid Sab'ah, chief of staff of the Naval Force, has said that our courageous, heroic navy managed to repulse and destroy all the ships and naval units which tried to approach the area of Khowr-e Musa and (Khowr-e Al-'Amya) and were able to destroy and sink 40 supply ships and 5 missile boats, down 3 enemy planes of the F-5 and F-4 types, and seize 2 boats complete with weaponry, equipment, and personnel. Moreover, they managed to capture a number of enemy soldiers.

In a statement to the Baghdad Domestic Service and Voice of the Masses correspondents at the battlefronts today, Staff Col Usamah 'Abd al-Majid Sab'ah asserted that our heroic navy was able to impose its control on the northern Arab Gulf region, refuting the Iranian regime's claims and lies that it controls the entries to the two ports [as heard] and the sea entries and passages leading to the Arab Gulf. He said: We defy the Iranian navy to prove its presence in the region after our brave units have managed to destroy all enemy attempts to approach them. He pledged to President leader Saddam Husayn to achieve more victories over the Iranian forces of tyranny and aggression.

Communique No 2,123 Issued

JN201803 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,123 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have warned the tyrant Iranian rulers before the whole world that the facts which govern the struggle and elements of strength on each side, headed by the fact that Iraq is defending its land and sovereignty, prove that victory will be on the side of great Iraq. The current aggression, its current results, and the upcoming results whose glimpses are appearing on the horizon confirm more than ever before that the aggression of the Iranian racist clique will only result in wiping out thousands more of their sheep and destroying what remains of their military machine.

Current battles prove the failure of the Iranian plot and show that the wicked designs have boomeranged. The remnants of the charlatans have abjectly failed to realize their general and detailed plans, leading to tens of thousands of casualties. The Iranian forces will suffer far greater losses than the Iranian rulers could ever imagine. Their remnants are now in a stifling area which is shrinking day after day while our forces are dealing them blows from all sides and tightening their siege around them, successfully implementing the plan of completely wiping them out and purging the last inch of territory of their filth. God be praised. We have overpowered them. God has made us follow the good path and left our enemies fumbling in their misguidedness.

The following is a round of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In the VII Army Corps front, our central and northern columns destroyed several enemy groups which tried to approach our positions last night. Our forces inflicted on these groups grave losses in men and weaponry and forced the few who remained alive to flee. Meanwhile, our forces in these two brave columns continued their pressure on the enemy with unceasing firepower all day today.

The southern column forces last night poured molten fire on the enemy, ripping its ranks and spreading death among its troops. This morning, the enemy tried to dispatch several groups toward our positions but they were all wiped out. The situation in the area was settled in favor of our victorious forces. Your work is much appreciated, O men. You are worthy of our love and pride.

2. Our powerful Air Force is daily playing heroic roles in wiping out the aggressors, destroying the pillars of aggression inside Iran, protecting Iraqi skies, and destroying enemy equipment, weaponry, and machinery. The eagles of the air have been greatly contributing toward deterring and defeating the enemy and in thwarting all enemy plans and intentions through their effective

support for our land forces. Our capable Air Force carried out the following missions last night and today:

a. Our planes launched a series of successful raids against enemy concentrations and supply lines in order to increase the worries of the Khomeyniites and to increase their bleeding night and day as punishment for their continuous aggression against our country.

b. Throughout the day, successive squadrons of our planes continued to cut off the heads of the aggressors, dropping on them tons of deadly bombs and inflicting on them grave losses in men, weaponry, and hardware in 426 combat missions.

c. An enemy F-4 plane attempted to penetrate our international border in the VII Army Corps sector, but our brave eagles intercepted it and shot it down at 0950 [0650 GMT] today.

d. The brave eagles intercepted a military plane and shot it down in the Ahvaz region at 1152.

e. At 1550 today, an air strike was directed at a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. It was destroyed.

f. Our planes today returned to hit the (Ra's-Abadan) bridge, the Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr]-Abadan bridge, and the bridge set up to replace Chuyebdeh bridge with the aim of preventing the enemy from replacing them in order to reinforce its forces and evacuate its casualties.

After carrying out all these heroic missions, our eagles returned safely to the homeland with the exception of one plane, which fell on enemy territory at 0707 today. The pilot was seen bailing out safely. We hold the Iranian side responsible for preserving the life of this pilot.

Glory to you, O Iraqi eagles. May God grant you permanent victory.

3. The Army helicopter gunships continue to deal devastating blows to enemy troop concentrations, positions, weaponry, and hardware. The helicopter gunships are extending large-scale support to our land forces, which are carrying out their heroic missions to destroy enemy remnants. Our helicopter gunships carried out 289 combat missions, inflicting massive losses on the aggressors. God bless your effort, O brave helicopter gunship men. Go forward to new blows that break the back of the enemy.

4. Our brave Navy continues to defend the waters of the Arab Gulf, imposing control over the operational theater in the northern Arab Gulf, inflicting losses on enemy ships and cutting off its supply lines. Our naval forces last night and today accomplished the following:

a. Our brave gunboats destroyed a big supply ship and another medium-sized one. They were hit and sunk north of the Arab Gulf at 2050 last night.

b. At 2135 last night, our Navy dealt a blow to another supply ship. It was immediately sunk.

c. The enemy tried to send one of its boats to save the sailors of one of the targets that was sunk last night, but one of our boats intercepted it and it was destroyed and sunk at 2245 last night.

d. Our brave Navy men hit a medium-sized supply ship at 0015 today. The ship was destroyed and sunk.

God bless you, O lions of the sea. Glory to our brave Navy. Go forward to more victories.

5. An enemy force attempted to advance toward our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Our fighters confronted it, killing 104 enemy troops and injuring another 150. In the same sector, a brave unit launched a raid against one of the positions occupied by the enemy. The position was destroyed and occupied by our unit.

6. In other sectors; One enemy position, one ammunition dump, and one observation post were destroyed, and two enemy men were killed in the II Army Corps central sector. In the VI Army Corps east of the Tigris, two infantry positions were destroyed and five enemy men were killed.

7. The criminal enemy shelled Abu Al-Khasib District with long-range artillery, damaging two houses. Mandali was also shelled.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 February 1986.

Syrian President Contacts King Husayn 20 Feb

JN201934 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1928 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held a telephone conversation with His Majesty King Husayn this evening.

PDRY Minister Arrives With Message From Al-'Attas

JN201021 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — PDRY Justice and Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Wasi' Ahmad Sallam arrived in Amman yesterday evening carrying a written message to His Majesty King Husayn from Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme Ppeople's Council Presidium.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the minister stated that the message deals with bilateral relations and the painful events which took place in the PDRY recently.

Conveys Message to Husayn

JN201508 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1442 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Amman, 20 Feb (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court here today PDRY Justice and Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Wasi' Hamad Sallam who conveyed a message to his majesty from President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, on recent developments in the PDRY and bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and Riyad al-Shak'ah, minister of justice.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN210649 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — PDRY Justice and Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Wasi' Ahmad Sallam left Amman yesterday evening following a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he handed His Majesty King Husayn a message from Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent on leaving the airport, the minister said that during his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn he explained recent PDRY developments. His majesty showed Jordan's desire to promote relations between the two fraternal countries. The minister added that his visit to Jordan was successful and contributed to bolstering the relationship between the two fraternal countries. Justice Minister Riyad al-Shak'ah and a number of officials saw the minister off.

House of Representatives To Hold Emergency Session

JN101914 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives, has decided to call for an emergency session of the house at 1000 the day after tomorrow, Saturday.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on PLO's 'Inconsistent Behavior'

JN201350 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "God Be Witness, For He Has Conveyed the Message," the newspaper *SAWT AL-SHA'B* says: We listen to King Husayn's speech and feel that the taste in our mouth grows bitterer and bitterer with every stage of its long, principled, and clear review of the Palestine question — the land, the Arab decision, the international role, and the PLO leadership.

The speech ends and we ask oursleves: Could it be that we have not yet understood the meaning of our national [qawmi] right and the Zionist plan after all these years? Have we not yet understood that the homeland is the land, that a people without a land is a community, and that an identity without a homeland is a reservoir of sad memories? Have we not yet understood that the homeland cannot be summed up in a statement and that it is too heavy to carry on a plane and too big to put in our pockets or bank accounts?

We used to say: In these bad Arab conditions, we have forgotten the unity of the great homeland. Our homeland has become the political entity which was created by the British Sykes and the French Picot. This political entity then diminished to become a regime and later an individual.

We now say: At the very moment when we removed the Palestine question from the center of the Arab struggle and put the PLO in its place, we and the PLO reached an impasse. You can differ with the PLO, but you cannot differ with Palestine. Right from the start the PLO has allowed its inconsistent behavior to confuse the Palestine question.

Thus, the PLO has fallen in the trap of the regime which has taken the place of the political entity. It has accepted the idea of the occupied political entity becoming a substitute for the homeland in the inverted equation. The PLO leadership did not understand the strategy of the Arab-Zionist conflict and did not use the tactic which would have enabled it to achieve that stratey. That leadership did not realize that it had very little room for political maneuvering.

SAWT AL-SHA'B adds: True, Jordan has special and distinct ties with the Palestinian homeland; it is also true that Jordan is ready to build an initial common stand for political action; but it is also true that Jordan does not build a bilateral front outside its pan-Arab commitment to Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and every Arab country. The policy of wheeling and dealing is a trivial policy which may have been alright for party politics in the 50's, but it is not alright for confronting an enemy who occupies and confiscates land and possesses military and political power as the Zionist entity does.

The paper concludes: Nobody has achieved politically what King Husayn has been able to achieve during the past year. The bulge he opened in the European and American fronts while playing the PLO's role is an important achievement consdering Jordan's size and the weak Arab position. How could such an endeavor end up with beating around the bush? Is the question one of liberating the West Bank from Jordan or from the occupation?

Al-Jumayyil on Talks With Mitterrand, Syria

JN191154 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0610 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Interview with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil by news director Antoine Nawfal in Paris on 18 February — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Antoine Nawfal] Your excellency: You had a prolonged meeting with President Francois Mitterrand. I do not believe that the talks dealt only with the francophone conference. I am sure it touched on the Lebanese situation following the recent events.

[Amin al-Jumayyil] My meeting with President Mitterrand is natural because we are old friends and because France has a role in Lebanon. France sacrificed for Lebanon and is always endeavoring to help Lebanon, both in world forums and on the domestic level. We do not forget that France lost dozens of martyrs in Lebanon while helping Lebanon restore its sovereignty and independence. Even today, France has a group of French soldiers working within the UNFIL in the south. Dozens of French observers are working within the security committee, helping Lebanon restore security and stability, particularly in the capital, Beirut. We do not forget France's efforts in Lebanon. Moreover, we need France's help in terms of liberating south Lebanon. France has an effective role on the international level and in the Security Council, where France is a permanent member. France has friends in Israel, particularly Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Therefore, we pin hopes on France's role and on the role of President Miterrand, who is interested in the Lebanese problem. This is my fifth meeting with President Mitterrand. Every meeting increases our confidence in France's sympathy toward Lebanon, that France supports Lebanon in its endeavors to restore peace, stability, and independence.

We discussed all issues, especially the issue of southern Lebanon and its liberation. We also discussed France's assistance to us to restore peace and amity within the Lebanese family. France has friends in Lebanon and will be able to tackle some problems and help us restore peace and security.

We affirm that the solution in Lebanon must be based first on the unity of Lebanese ranks and the Lebanese reconciliation. This is the first and basic condition. The second condition, which is no less important, is the cooperation with Syria, the Syrian initiative in Lebanon and the cooperation between Lebanese and Syrian officials. While explaining our views abroad we do not forget the Syrian role in Lebanon and the need to reach agreement with Syria on a salvation project in Lebanon because Syria is able to help in this regard.

[Nawfal] Do you intend to resume dialogue with Damascus in the near future?

[Al-Jumayyil] I, pesonally, and all the Lebanese people adhere to dialogue with Syria. I believe that my friendship with President al-Asad is firm and will overcome the passing cloud that is permeating Syrian-Lebanese ties. Perhaps we are passing through a difficult stage. All of us are in an impasse and there is no way out except through Syrian-Lebanese understanding. This cloud, which was formed by the tripartite agreement, must pass. We must cooperate in the interest of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab cause. I am convinced that the Lebanese position will be understood by Syria, that Syria will completely understand the dimensions of this position. When Syria understands this, it will realize that it is necessary to return to the atmosphere that prevailed before this passing cloud. We will return to discussing our Lebanese problems and the Syrian-Lebanese relation in an atmosphere of amity, cooperation, and love. This is the aim of the Lebanese people.

[Nawfal] One last, pesonal question, I asked you a short while ago how the Lebanese president could leave his country in such circumstances. I believe I have not obtained the answer I hoped for. Is President al-Jumayyil not afraid to leave Lebanon in such circumstances? Some world leaders are afraid to leave their countries in similar circumstances.

[Al-Jumayyil] You are a Lebanese national and you know Lebanon. If the Lebanese president is afraid to leave Lebanon to explain the Lebanese cause, there is no need for us to continue our efforts to serve Lebanon. It is true that the Lebanese situation is not as stable as we want it to be, but we have no complexes. We are convinced of our cause. We explain this cause in all national and world forums. We will not concede this right. Lebanon's presence in international forums is a basic issue. It is within our role and is part of our mission. We will continue our moves. As for the fears you have mentioned, these fears are only in the imagination of some persons. I would like to assure you that the Lebanese legitimacy, which steadfastly faced all dangers and attempts at disunity and division, will remain. We are certain that the Lebanese people sanctify democracy in Lebanon and reject the language of violence and the gun. I am sure the legitimacy will restore its role and all the Lebanese leaderships will support it in the service of Lebanon.

[Nawfal] Thank you Mr President.

Al-Jumayyil Arrives in Morocco for Talks With King

NC201727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Morocco this afternoon in response to an invitation conveyed to him by Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali to meet with King Hassan II. The Central News Agency had earlier cited informed sources as saying that communications were underway between Morocco and an Arab capital to arrange for President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to that capital before his return to Lebanon.

MONDAY MORNING Interviews Nabih Birri on Issues

NC191535 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English
17-23 Feb 86 pp 20-23

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by *MONDAY MORNING* reporter Nadim Abu-Ghannam — date, place not specified]

[Text] [Abu-Ghannam] How would you comment on (former) President Franjiyah's objection to a few of the basic provisions of the tripartite accord, including the proposed powers of the president of the republic and the "twofold-threefold" division of members of the parliament, whereby the legislature would be divided equally between Moslem and Christian deputies, and the Christian among the three major Christian sects?

[Birri] President Franjiyah agreed to the tripartite accord and suggested it follow the normal parliamentary procedures. Consequently, he did not mention any of the objections you mention in your question. Hence, there is no reason for any disagreement between us and President Franjiyah.

[Abu-Ghannam] But Franjiyah expessed his objection to the sectarian division of members of the parliament as stipulated in the tripartite accord on January 29 during his weekly press conference?

[Birri] I haven't heard of these objections. However, if President Franjiyah's comments were for the purpose of abolishing political sectarianism, then there is no disagreement between us on this matter either.

[Abu Ghannam] How would you comment on the calls proposing that either the president of the republic agrees to the tripartite accord and remains in power, or he resigns and in turn amendments are introduced to the agreement?

[Birri] I am against these calls and expressed my rejection recently on February 6. We demand the application of the tripartite accord and the removal of all obstacles preventing this. President Al-Jumayyil's refusal to endorse the tripartite accord was the main reason behind the calls for his resignation. The call for Al-Jumayyil's removal should not, however, divert us from the real cause of the problem: the need for the development and reform of Lebanon's political system.

We demand the application of the tripartite accord and support any call for the abolition of political sectarianism.

[Abu-Ghannam] You have often warned against the eruption of war in the Palestinian camps, but predicted that it would not last as long as the battle of last May. Do you expect such a war to take place in order to provide a cover for (PLO Chairman) Yasir 'Arafat's current moves and in view of his recent declaration on the flow of arms to the Palestinian camps?

[Birri] The instigator of a new camp war will this time be Amin al-Jumayyil and his regime. This is because Al-Jumayyil is trapped and cannot escape except by inciting troubles in West Beirut. He is not concerned with who might emerge victorious. All he wants is to prove to people that the problem is not related to his refusal to endorse the tripartite accord. He is now using the Palestinian camps to achieve this end.

Our sources indicate that a number of Palestinian fighters have infiltrated into the camps through East Beirut, but inspite of this, the Palestinians remain our brothers and we will do all that is possible to maintain coordination with them to prevent future disagreement. It is no secret that meetings between the Amal Movement and the Palestinian National Salvation Front are taking place almost daily in an attempt to prevent the instigation of conflict between Amal and the Palestinians, and for that matter between Amal and the Communist Party, or Amal and the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] or the PSP and the National Syrian Social Party, and so on. Such plots aims at reducing the tension in East Beirut through instigating troubles in West Beirut and thereby diverting attention from those who obstructed the application of the tripartite agreement.

[Abu-Ghannam] You recently stated that if the situation deteriorated further and fighting was to break out on a large scale, the so-called political "red lines" would be bypassed. Would this not encourage regional and international involvement in such a manner as to redefine the existing balance of power between local factions?

[Birri] The involvement you speak of is already taking place. On every possible occasion the U.S. has used its veto to block Security Council resolutions in favor of the South. I don't believe the Americans can make up for their previous blunders in Lebanon by what they're presently doing against the South. They have already decreased the budget of UNIFIL by almost 50 percent. What initiative they will adopt in April (when the UNIFIL mandate comes to an end) regarding UNIFIL's future remains unclear.

Israel, as we all can see, is still present in the South. Its shelling of southern villages under the pretext of preventing operations of the National Resistance is unacceptable. Only recently, the Israelis though that by evicting the inhabitants of Jba', Amal would retaliate against Jazzin — a trap we did not fall into.

Hence the struggle will go on until the South is liberated from Israel and its agents. I believe that only then will those holding on to their privileges in the Lebanese system realize that the time to give them up has come, since the power they think is protecting them will have been driven out of Lebanon. Israel's continued presence in Lebanon is the cause of the tripartite accord's failure.

[Abu-Ghannam] Is the failure of the tripartite accord final, or is there a possibility of reviving it?

[Birri] This depends upon the strength of the Israeli factor in Lebanon. The more it is reduced, the more possible it is to revive the tripartite accord.

I would like to pose the following question by way of *MONDAY MORNING*: Why is Abdallah Abu Habib, Lebanon's ambassador in Washington, making contacts in a manner similar to that preceding the abrogation of the May 17 agreement? Only the president of the republic and officials in the Foreign Ministry can say why such contacts are taking place, and they know exactly what I am referring to by this. Why aren't they showing any genuine concern for the South? It is not enough to meet with the permanent members of the Security Council to discuss the South, while our embassies are making contacts for the opposite purpose.

[Abu-Ghannam] The Amal Movement has clashed with the PSP, the Murabitoun, and the Palestinians, and latest reports speak of clashes with the Communist Party. Is there a so-called "conspiracy" directed against the Movement, or are such clashes the results of miscalculations on its part?

[Birri] To be fair, I would say that the Movement is subject to the same conspiracies directed against the country as a whole, because of our belief in a single, unified Lebanon. Yet as a consequence of our convictions, we suffer more than others from such plots. But this does not mean we are infallible. Hence, on the one hand, the conspiracy is great, and on the other, our mistakes contribute to, though do not instigate, the intensification of trouble.

[Abu-Ghannam] How do you view the situation in East Beirut and do you think military battles will recur there?

[Birri] The agreement between the parties present in East Beirut has so far not produced a genuine negotiator. Through the use of force and trickery, Amin al-Jumayyil is now trying to impose himself as the only negotiator. This is why he obstructed the initiative of the Independent Maronite deputies, who resumed their contacts after Al-Jumayyil plot was revealed.

The Independent Maronite deputies are now trying to assess the opinions of different factions in hope that this may lead to political negotiations. However, Al-Jumayyil even objects to such reconciliatory moves, because the impression they give that he is not the sole official spokesman. That is the bloc's contacts are now taking place behind the scenes.

The Maronites themselves are no longer concerned with their privileges or the number of parliamentary seats they have. The only concern of the Maronite citizen is the unity of the country and the coexistence of the Lebanese. Similarly, the Moslem citizen wants to see Lebanon liberated and all Lebanese living as equals without any one group having privileges over others.

When the Lebanese state came into existence, the regime at the time improvised a temporary sectarian division of the country's political posts. But, this temporary division has since become institutionalized and entrenched, which is not possible any longer. The majority of citizens are today hoping for real and permanent salvation.

[Abu-Ghannam] How do you view the efforts of the Independent Maronite Bloc and their demands for introducing amendments on the tripartite accord?

[Birri] First, if the amendments demanded are in the public interest and not in the interest of a specific sect, we have first to review them before giving any answer. Actually, my sources indicate that the activities of the Maronite Bloc are not pointed in this direction. They have set a date to meet with me. But the appointment was cancelled, either under pressure or as a result of the unstable security situation prevailing on the green line. Another date has therefore been set to meet with them, and in the light of this meeting I will be able to comment whether their activities embody a new approach or whether they are destined to mirror Amin al-Jumayyil's political stance.

[Abu-Ghannam] Israel has annexed 35 square km of the South and might annex a larger area in the near future. In view of the seeming lack of regional concern, what military and political moves could be employed to deter Israel from further acquisition of territory? Are you considering bringing this issue up in talks with Arab governments?

[Birri] As long as Israel is present in the so-called border security zone, it is more accurate to say that it is annexing Lebanon entirely. The only way to deter Israel is through the national resistance. As long as Israel is present the national resistance will not cease its activities and will continue to flourish. I made this declaration in 1982, and its credibility has been proved on the ground since.

As regarding my intent to visit Arab states, I have already visited Kuwait and Algeria several times, but Lebanon's problems have prevented me from visiting other Arab states.

[Abu-Ghannam] France's permanent representative to the United Nations was scheduled to arrive in Lebanon today (Tuesday, February 11). Why was his visit postponed?

[Birri] He was supposed to arrive today and a meeting was scheduled between the two of us. But I was informed by the French ambassador that the visit was postponed a few days for personal reasons.

[Abu-Ghannam] Minister Marwan Hamadah said in an interview with *MONDAY MORNING* in January that there are international guarantees to renew the UNIFIL mandate this April. What are these guarantees? If they were not credible, how would the situation in the South develop?

[Birri] We demand the presence of the United Nations Interim Force in the South. We want it to receive better support and its numbers to be increased. Moreover, we call for the application of Security Council Resolution 425 and the deployment of the Lebanese army up to Lebanon's international borders. This has been the attitude of the Amal Movement since 1978; that is, since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 425. Israel's policy is to provoke UNIFIL through the militia [the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army"). Israeli officials have time and again declared their preference for the withdrawal of UNIFIL from the South.

We are completely aware that UNIFIL cannot force Israel to withdraw from the South. With the U.S. constantly using its veto power, the Security Council's inability to act has proved the truth of the saying that what is taken by force can only be regained by force. However, we wish UNIFIL and consequently the U.N. as a whole to remain witness to Israel's actions in the South.

UNIFIL does provide some security to inhabitants of the South, who have been disregarded by their government, by Arab countries and countries of the world in general. It also maintains social and medical services.

Up till now I have no information regarding any guarantees for the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate. I do, however, have information about the European attitude regarding this subject. The French have expressed their support for the continued presence of UNIFIL and the Italians are even ready to strengthen the already-present logistic force. The Europeans favor the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate. This was probably what Minister Hamadah meant by international guarantees. Similarly, the Soviets are not hostile to UNIFIL's role. This leaves us with the American attitude, which is suspicious, especially after they encouraged the reduction of UNIFIL's budget. The withdrawal of UNIFIL is not in the interest of international peace, nor of regional peace.

I believe that after eleven years of suffering, the international community owes it to Lebanon to maintain UNIFIL in the South.

[Abu-Ghannam] How would you comment on the view that the warning you and Minister Junblatt have made of a military confrontation was only to exert political pressure on the opponents of the tripartite accord, since, in the view of some observers, such a confrontation is unlikely at present?

[Birri] We did not call for a military confrontation. We have always preferred political solutions to our problems. However, when political means fail one is obliged to use other means.

When I personally called for the resignation of the president, I knew that he would not do so willingly. At the same time, I did not call for the use of force to pressure his resignation. I have adopted a sound democratic method and proposed the reduction of his mandate to four years or three years and a half. Some might think this might lead to the same end, but I disagree. If the presidential candidate feels he is capable of saving Lebanon, he could present himself for a second term and he might even win the election. However, this does not mean that the fate of Lebanon depends on the will of one individual. As I have said, when political means fail one is obliged to use force. I have called for military confrontation only when political channels were blocked.

[Abu-Ghannam] When might one expect a military confrontation to take place?

[Birri] When we reach a level of absolute political desperation. Up till now one could say that this desperation is not total.

[Abu-Ghannam] The economic situation continues to deteriorate and no concrete measures are being taken to stop this. Why haven't Amal Movement, the PSP and the other parties formed committees to control the prices of vital commodities as is being done in East Beirut?

[Birri] I think that the present economic situation in West Beirut does not differ from that in East Beirut. I do not believe that the commodities are being sold cheaper in East Beirut. The socioeconomic situation is not exclusive to one area, but is generalized to the whole country. Control of prices cannot put an end to the deteriorating economic situation. Such a situation was caused by the devaluation of the Lebanese pound, the security situation and the irresponsiveness of the regime. The current situation might deteriorate even more and will eventually lead to circumstances allowing for a popular revolution.

[Abu-Ghannam] But can we speak of a popular revolution amids the sectarian feelings that divide Lebanese society?

[Birri] Officials in East Beirut continue to exploit sectarian sensitivities to smother any positive developments. Yet when the situation becomes intolerable the people will finally realize the full dimension of the regime's maneuvers and will go beyond it. This is what I foresee.

[Abu-Ghannam] How would you evaluate (U.S. envoy) Richard Murphy's meetings with (Israeli Premier) Shim'on Peres and with King Husayn in London on the one hand, and the Jordano-Palestinian meetings on the other?

[Birri] I don't think anything will emerge from the talks between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat or from the role that the Americans were supposed to play if direct negotiations took place between a joint Jordano-Palestinian delegation and Israeli officials. The PLO's recent attitude of continuing its rejection of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 shows that the PLO realizes that these negotiations will not benefit the Palestinians of the occupied territories. I believe talks will fail and the PLO will return to its basic priorities, which concentrate on resistance more than political dialogue. This will have positive results on the Lebanese scene.

NLP Leader Dany Sham'un Urges Syrians To Leave

NC201402 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] National Liberal Party [NLP] leader Dany Sham'un has called upon Syria to withdraw from Lebanon and to stop dealing with the Lebanese in this particular way. He stressed that Syria has a political role to play in closing the Lebanese file; it should support Lebanese consitutional and legitimate institutions so that Lebanon can be secure again.

Dany Sham'un emphasized that he was willing to meet with Ministers Junblatt and Birri without foreign interference or help; his intentions are purely pro-Lebanon. He said: We have no preconditions for dialogue with them. We feel that the political system should be amended through the consitutional institutions. We hope for an end to the war and a return to the legitimate institutions so that we can talk about amending the system.

The NLP leader stressed that he rejects the Damascus agreement because it infringes upon the sovereignty of Lebanon and implies an end to its independence. Dany Sham'un declared: A military solution would mean killing a million Christians — I dare them to kill a million Christians.

Syrians Shell Christian Areas

NC202103 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] National Liberal Party leader engineer Dany Sham'un has called upon Syria to withdraw from Lebanon and to stop treating the Lebanese in this particular way. Sham'un accused the Syrian forces of shelling the eastern areas. He said that it has become the duty of the state to bring an urgent complaint to the UN Security Council and a similar complaint to the Arab League to stop the genocide of the Lebanese in general and the Christians in particular.

Syrian Role, Splits in West Beirut Analyzed

NC201733 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Following the failure of political pressure, the party supporting the tripartite agreement has moved to the next stage; namely, military pressure. It should be noted that this change has come in the wake of definite signs from Syria, particularly the statements made by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in his interview with the paper *LIBERATION*.

To understand the dimensions of the security flare-up, one must view them in conjunction with the circumstances that govern the parties to the tripartite agreement and with the bad situation in West Beirut. These parties are worried that the situation is not developing in their interests. The 1-month period given by Syria expires at the end of February, and so far no progress has been achieved in attempts to split the Christian front.

Minister Nabih Birri seems to be in a critical position in the western area in light of the division between a front supporting Syria — namely, the Amal Movement and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party — and a front leaning toward the PLO, which includes the Progressive Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Sunnites, and Hizballah. As a result of this reality, the Amal Movement position has weakened while that of the Sunnites, linked with the Palestinians, has been strengthened.

The efforts being made by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil abroad has confused those who were counting on his isolation. Instead, the president has succeeded in securing international and Arab support for Lebanon.

The success of the Lebanese Forces in ochestrating events in the eastern areas has also complicated the calculations of other parties. On the basis of these facts, therefore, it can be said that the clarification of domestic stands and the exploration of foreign ones has ended. A new phase has begun that observers expect to be somewhat tense, as evidenced by the events taking place in upper Al-Matn during the last few hours.

Further on Clashes in Upper Al-Matn Area

Army Positions Under Fire

NC191322 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Clashes are occuring along the Al-Dawwar-Al-'Ayrun combat line on the upper Al-Matn. Previously, Army positions in Al-Dawwar and the surrounding hills had come under artillery fire from Suhur al-Shuwayr and Bulunya. Gunmen had appeared in the Al-Ma'amil area in Al-'Ayrun prior to the clashes. Shells reportedly fell on the Bikfayya area and on Dahr al-Sawwan.

At approximately 1330 today, the Al-Kahhalah and 'Arayya hills came under mortar and machinegun fire from Al-'Abbadiyah, Shwit, and 'Alay. Army positions in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, 'Ayn al-Sayyidah, Qurs al-Mudawwar, and Suq al-Gharb were subject to intermittent rocket and machinegun fire.

4 Killed, 25 Wounded

NC201854 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The upper Al-Matn front flared up again at 1830 today. As of 1840, firing along the confrontation lines is being accompanied by the indiscriminate shelling of remote villages in Al-Matn and Kasrawan. Latest reports indicate that several shells have fallen in the valleys adjacent to the town of 'Ajaltun and on the coastal and central areas of Kasrawan.

Intermittent clashes were reported to have taken place along the Al-Dawwar combat lines between 1400 and 1730. The Lebanese Army has managed to strike painful blows at the aggressors and gunmen, who attempted to attack military positions. The Army has inflicted several casualties on the ranks of the gunmen. As a result of the shelling of innocent citizens in the areas of Al-Matn and Kasrawan, 4 people have been killed and 25 others wounded.

Violent Fighting Reported

NC200700 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The upper Al-Matn combat lines and the surrounding villages and towns were the scene of violent fighting last night in which various types of weapons, including long-range artillery, were used.

Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] and Junblatt gunmen last night continued their attacks on Lebanese Army positions in Al-Dawwar, 'Ayn al-Tuffahah, and the surrounding villages, which do not return the fire. Artillery was directed against Bikfayya, Bhirsaf, Bhannis, Dahr al-Sawwan, Himlaya, Bayt Shabab, Kafr 'Aqqa, Wadi al-Karm, Mar Musa, Zabbugha, 'Ayn al-Kharrubah, Al-Dawwar, and Bayt Miri. About 15 minutes ago, a number of shells fell on the upper Al-Matn coast and caused several fires. An explosives expert recently arrived to remove unexploded shells from this area.

According to security reports, the shelling of Christian areas originated from Duhur al-Shuwayr, Bulunya, (Shillamah), Al-Muruj, Shrin, and Tarshish. Artillery emplacements in Bhamdun, Al-Hilaliyah, Al-'Abbadiyah, Falugha, 'Ayn al-Sihhah, Hammana, and Ra's al-Matn also participated in the shelling.

Last night and at dawn today, the Lebanese Army repulsed several infiltration attempts by Junblatt and SSNP gunmen, causing heavy losses in men and equipment, on the Al-'Ayrun-Al-Dawwar and Zighrin-Shrin lines.

Cease-Fire Broken

NC201043 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The Army and the Phalangists of the B'abda Salazar [President al-Jumayyil] have resumed their aggression on the upper Al-Matn combat lines. They have been shelling the areas of Duhur al-Shuwayr, (Tallat al-Ma'mal), and Zar'un and the surrounding hills since shortly after 1100. The shelling shattered the relative calm that prevailed there after a cease-fire agreement reached at 0900 [as heard].

Violent clashes had taken place at dawn today between the nationalist forces and the Army and Phalangists of the B'abda Salazar but had ended with the cease-fire. During the fighting, artillery and rocket fire reached deep inside the residential areas in Duhur al-Shuwayr, Majdal Tarshish, Tarshish, Mshikha, Bshillama, Zar'un, al-Khinsharah, Bulunya, and Al-Muruj.

We would like to note that the nationalist forces have again taken control of (Tallat al-Ma'mal) and the (Al-Madafin) area on the Al-Dawwar-Al-'Ayrun line. These forces have also strengthened their positions on the Shrin-Zighrin combat line.

Speaker Al-Husayni, Deputies Leave for Kuwait

NC202018 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left Beirut for Kuwait this evening in response to an official invitation from the Kuwaiti Government. Speaker al-Husayni will attend Kuwait's National Day celebrations and the opening of the Kuwaiti National Assembly. Al-Husayni is accompanied by a delegation comprised of ranking officials in the Chamber of Deputies.

Daughter of French Hostage Summoned to Beirut

NC211342 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned from Western intelligence sources that Simone Carton, the daughter of a French diplomat kidnapped by Hizballah, has been asked to come to Beirut or to go to the French Embassy in Damascus as soon as possible. The summoning of Danielle [as heard], who has been staying abroad, is linked to reports about her father's possible release. However, French Embassy sources in Beirut have refused to comment on this.

The Voice of Lebanon's Paris correspondent has been told by informed sources that the French authorities have freed two Palestinians from the Abu Nidal group accused of killing PLO representative 'Izz al-Din Khalaf in 1978. The French president's release of the two Palestinians was a clear signal to Syria and Hizballah regarding France's true intentions and the Mitterrand government's ability to free detainees, even in the face of the country's coming elections.

According to these reports, France has expressed its willingness to release the members of the Anis al-Naqqash group, who are charged with the attempted assassination of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar. This would be in return for the release of the two French citizens held by Hizballah, and came despite the objection of the French foreign and interior ministers.

Further on Fighting in South, Israeli Activities

Israelis Leave Some Areas

NC191345 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The National Resistance men and inhabitants of the southern villages continue to check the enemy's ferocious onslaught. After fierce battles with the National Resistance men, the enemy forces withdrew from Haris township at 1350 and headed toward Sribbin township. The Israeli troops have also left Haruf and headed toward Al-Ghanduriyah.

According to reports from the south, the occupation forces prevented the International Red Cross from entering Haris to evacuate the wounded. The majority of this township has been destroyed and looted by the Israeli forces.

The enemy troops are now combing the hills of northern Kawkaba. An Israeli patrol advanced toward Jabal al-Dahr hills and the hills overlooking Libayya township. The militias of agent Lahd are searching the area between the Al-Ahmadiyah hills and Haruf, up to Jisr al-Dallafah in the southern part of west Al-Biqa'. Lahd militiamen shelled the Maydun hills and the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah.

Israeli Gunboats Halt Ship

NC191823 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Citing maritime sources, our correspondent in Sidon has reported that Israeli gunboats have intercepted a cargo ship named (*Greenway*) this evening. The vessel had been en route to Sidon port. The Israelis thoroughly searched the ship and forced it to change course. Israeli gunboats have also been seen on patrol duty off the coast tonight.

Israelis in Western Al-Biqa'

NC191554 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Reports received from western Al-Biqa' today indicate that Israeli forces have begun combing operations in Libyayya, Jabal al-Dahr, (Tillasah), Shallal al-Ahmadiyah, Maydun, and 'Ayn al-Tin. In the eastern sector, the Israeli forces have closed the Hasbayya-Marj al-Zuhur crossing point in both directions.

An Israeli force took up position in front of the [Islamic] Shari'ah Court in Tibnin in Bint Jubayl District at 1100. Enemy personnel then forced open the door and searched the court. This force is still there.

Resistance Operations in South

NC201257 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] At dawn today, a resistance group attacked an Israeli forces assembly point on a hill between Khirbit Silm and Bi'r al-Salasil. A ferocious 35-minute battle ensued, during which the enemy used tanks and heavy-caliber machineguns. The enemy forces also searched the area. Another group then attacked the same position, using artillery and automatic weapons. This group clashed for 25 minutes with the occupation forces, which continued to use tanks and heavy-caliber machineguns.

Amal Movement fighters later attacked the same position, using RPG-7's, according to an Amal statement. Soon afterward, Israeli warplanes launched mock raids and dropped flares over the operations area, focusing on Kafr Dunin and Bi'r al-Salasil. Afterward, resistance groups used rockets, RPG-7's, and 107-mm rockets in operations along the line facing the occupation forces.

The enemy war planes staged further mock raids along the coast, from Tyre to Sidon. Israeli enemy gunboats were seen cruising off the shores between Tyre and Sidon, accompanied by Israeli helicopters, which illuminated the area with flares.

At 0730 today, enemy vehicles were seen on the Sribbin crossroads moving toward Haris. At 0745, enemy forces surrounded Bra'shit. At 0800, the enemy forces entered the town of Dayr Mtar with 12 armored vehicles. Other occupation forces surrounded Haris, then entered, and began searching houses for an Israeli soldier who had been killed earlier.

At 0810, gunboats were sighted all along the coast between Sidon and Al-Ghaziyah. At 0900, enemy trucks, tanker trucks, and jeeps were spotted moving in the direction of Al-Ghanduriyah. Helicopters flew over Dayr Mtar as infantry soldiers moved toward the Al-Qa'qa'iyah-Frun Bridge.

Roundup of Operations in South

NC202155 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received the following report on the course of operations in the resisting south: Israeli troops carried out another attempt to attack Srifa at 1900. Ferocious fighting ensued for some time between the Israeli enemy and a combined force composed of Amal Movement members and the town's inhabitants. The Israeli objective was to remove bodies and burnt vehicles from the battlefield.

At 1935, a clash broke out between resistance men and enemy troops in Dayr (al-Ghar) and Bi'r al-Salasil. Israeli troops illuminated the area and carried out searches. A UNIFIL center in [name indistinct] was hit during the fighting.

In retaliation for attacks on the defenseless villages, a group of Srifa's sons shelled Zionist settlements in the Galilee area with heavy-caliber Grad rockets at 2050.

The townships of Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under artillery shelling from enemy emplacements located on ridges overlooking the towns at 2115. Material damage was reported.

Israeli helicopters have continued to fly over Lebanon, dropping flares over areas that have been invaded.

Israeli Force 'Wiped Out'

NC201153 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1136 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] According to the latest reports received from the south, fierce clashes are taking place between the Israeli enemy and Amal Movement fighters in Frun village. The reports also say that the Amal fighters ambushed a 20-man occupation force in Srifa. The entire force was wiped out.

'Ferocious' Fighting Reported

NC201259 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1145 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] According to information received a short while ago on the progress of today's ferocious battles, the Israeli forces surrounded the town of Tibnin this morning and are carrying out investigations in Haris, which they also surrounded this morning. At 0915, Israeli occupation forces coming from Al-Naffakhiyah made an attempt to encircle the town of Srifa. The enemy's infantry has tried to block the roads between Srifa and Al-Naffakhiyah from the direction of Frun. At 1015, enemy helicopters landed troops in Wadi 'Ayn al-Zarqa, which is situated between Dayr Mtar and Al-Naffakhiyah.

Military concentrations have been observed on the following lines: Shama, Tayr Harfa, Al-Jibbayn, Al-Hamra, the neighborhood of Majdal Zun, Srifa, Dayr Kifa, and all along the Tyre-Al-Naqurah coastline. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats continue to cruise up and down the coast off Tyre.

Israeli warplanes have been flying over Tyre since last night.

Fighting has been taking place in Srifa and the outskirts since 1200. The Israeli occupation forces are attacking the town with scores of vehicles and hundreds of soldiers. The resistance fighters and Srifa residents are confronting them in one of the most ferocious battles that have taken place since the beginning of the recent invasion. The total losses sustained by the resistance are not known but two people have been reported wounded and sent to the hospital.

The occupation forces are now surrounding Haddathah. They arrested 12 persons from Tibnin, looted houses and shops and stole cars. The resistance earlier clashed with the occupation forces at the approaches to Tibinin.

Amal on Israeli Casualties

NC201341 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] We learned a short time ago that the Israeli enemy has sustained many casualties. Ferocious battles appear to be taking place. The NNA office has just sent us the following report by telephone:

[Begin telephone report] We have been informed that approximately 20 Israeli soldiers have been wounded in the battle taking place in Srifa.

The Amal leadership in the south has issued a statement saying that at present 12 Israelis have been killed and 30 wounded. The statement noted other Israeli losses: One helicopter has been shot down; one Israeli gunboat has been damaged; a Merkava tank has been destroyed; and six armored vehicles and nine other vehicles — troop carriers, jeeps, and civilian cars belonging to Israeli intelligence — have been put out of commission.

The statement said that nine persons from the Amal Movement have been martyred; 17 others wounded; and 327, including some residents of the south, are missing. [end telephone report]

Amal SAM-7 Downs Helicopter

NC201423 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1408 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] About 1,500 Israeli troops tried to advance toward the town of Srifa at 1315 today. Their attempt, however, failed because of the ambushes laid down by men of the faithful resistance. The enemy troops, who were forced to retreat, directed intensive shellfire at Srifa. Israeli helicopters conducted searched over the town as a result of which several people were either killed or wounded.

At 1330, enemy helicopters used Milan missiles to attack the town. Resistance men managed to down a helicopter. We have just been informed that an Amal force used a SAM-7 to shoot down an Israeli helicopter between Srifa and Shhur at 1400. The enemy losses in the Srifa fighting amount to 20 killed and 5 wounded.

Continued Fighting Reported

NC211327 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpts] At 0740 today, Israeli enemy helicopters conducted a major search operation in and around Bi'r al-Salasil. Enemy vehicles and other massed units were seen in the hills of Kafr Dunin and Dayr Ntar at 0930. Enemy infantry came down from the Kafr Dunin Hills and searched the valley near the town. At 1000, the villages of Humin al-Fawqa, Jarju', and Arab Salim came under violent fire from 82-mm mortars and 12-mm guns manned by agent Lahd's personnel in the Sujud hills. The shelling cut all roads leading to the three towns. At 1020, Israeli warplanes flew at a low altitude over the region south of Tyre and Dayr Ntar.

Three Israeli helicopters reconnoitered Haris and the Dayr Ntar Hills at 1100. Half an hour later, four helicopters combed Kafr Dunin and the areas overlooking Al-Shahabiyah, Jwayya, and Mahrunah. We learned a short while ago that fighting is going on, pitting local residents and members of the resistance against the occupation forces in Kafr Dunin.

A 20-man Israeli patrol tried to enter Al-Shahabiyah at 1200, but ran into resistance forces and the town's inhabitants.

At 1330 today, the martyr Bilal Fahs group launched an attack against an Israeli enemy assembly point in Bi'r al-Salasil, destroying a vehicle. Reports indicate that fighting has been taking place since 1100 along the Al-Shahabiyah-Kafr Dunin line, where the occupation forces are trying to advance. The Al-Shahabiyah-Kafir Dunin Road has been cut.

According to our latest information, the National Resistance has launched six assaults on the upper Galilee and Metulla. A katyusha rocket struck Marj 'Uyun, and ambulances were seen racing to the area.

Israelis Dismantling Headquarters

NC211444 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] According to the latest reports from the south, Israeli forces are dismantling their command headquarters in Burj Qallawiyah-al-Ghanduriyah. The Lahd militias are also withdrawing a total of 25 vehicles from the same position. Enemy helicopters have combed Kafr Dunin, Al-Shihabiyah, and Bi'r al-Salasil. Tanks were observed moving from Dayr Kifa to Bi'r al-Salasil at 1445. Enemy helicopters flew over Kafra, Yatir, and Haris at 1500.

Communist Party Politburo Member Assassinated

NC200930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] At 0850 today, two gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on Khalil Na'us, a member of the Lebanese Communist Party Political Bureau, who was in his Mercedes 200 at the Burj Abu Haydar-Corniche al-Mazra'ah crossroads. As a result, Na'us and his driver were injured. They were taken to the American University Hospital, where Na'us soon died.

General Strike Called

NC201457 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party has issued the following statement: The criminal assassination of struggler Khalil Na'us comes as the Israelis are renewing their aggression against the south and as the internal isolationist conspiracy to thwart the national solution for the Lebanese crisis is becoming more intense. At the same time, all those forces that are agents of the United States and Israel are coming together with the isolationist organs in order to incite sedition in the nationalist areas, preoccupy the nationalist Lebanese, and distract their attention from the main enemy in the south and from the battle to bring an end to sectarian, factional hegemony within the country.

In its statement, the Communist Party called for an all-out national response that will emphasize the unity of the nationalist forces in the face of the conspiracy and their determination to foil this plot and its aims. They also called for a national procession tomorrow, Friday, for the great martyr's funeral, and for a general strike in Lebanon to express condemnation of the crime. The Lebanese Communist Party's Political Bureau also instructed all communists to be extremely vigilant and alert in order to thwart the enemies' conspiracy and to organize a full nationalist response to this crime.

Strike Marks Funeral

NC211308 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Nationalist Beirut is again living through a tragedy, and sinful hands have made a new attempt to tamper with our national destiny. The forces of sedition have tried to harm our people's faith. Nationalist Beirut took part in today's funeral of Khalil Na'us, member of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee and the official responsible for its Beirut branch. The funeral was held in the Imam 'Ali Ibn Abu Talib Mosque in Al-Tariq al-Jadidah.

In denunciation of this sinful act, Beirut, the southern suburb, Sidon, the mountain area, Tripoli, Al-Kurah, and Al-Biqa' went on strike today. All schools and businesses were closed. A number of delegations and prominent personalities visited the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee Headquarters to pay their respects and condemn the crime.

Communists To Retaliate

NC211256 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] In a telephone call to the Voice of Lebanon at noon today, the Communist Revolutionaries Organization [Munazzamat al-Thawriyin al-Shuyu'iyin] declared that the criminal assassination of one of its members, Khalil Na'us, and other similar attempts will not go unpunished.

The group warned the Amal Movement, and specifically its West Beirut security service, that it will be dealt a double blow.

Communist Action Group Reemerges in West Beirut

NC201515 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1145 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A new element has appeared in the explosive situation in West Beirut. The Communist Action Organization has reemerged, using the so-called National Resistance to undertake a gradual and open resumption of its activities.

This follows a noticeable absence from the information and political scene in the recent period on the part of [organization leader] Muhsin Ibrahim.

Security sources expect the Communist Action Organization to begin its military activity in West Beirut. It has organized more than 15 cells in Al-Hamra', Al-Rawshah, Al-Raml al-Zarif, and Al-Zaydaniyah, and is also seeking to establish cells in the southern suburb, despite close control of communist movements and activity in that area by the Amal Movement.

Amal Warned on Kidnapping of Hizballah Official

NC201147 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] An Hizballah official, who identified himself as 'Izz al-Din, contacted Voice of Lebanon to warn the Amal Movement and the 6th Brigade.

He threatened that if Hizballah official Mustafa Shahadah was not released within 24 hours, Hizballah would take the appropriate measures to secure his release.

Tehran Reports Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

LD211038 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text) Damascus, Feb. 21, IRNA — Iran's acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati heading a political delegation arrived here Thursday night [20 Feb] with a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for his Syrian counterpart President Hafiz al-Asad. Besharati and his accompanying delegation were received at the airport by senior Syrian Foreign Ministry officials as well as staff of Iranian Embassy here.

In his meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad and other high ranking Syrian offiicals, the acting foreign minister is to discuss the latest developments in the Iraqi imposed war and in the region.

Soviet Union Provides Army With 250 T-80 Tanks

GF191248 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
19 Feb 86 p 22

[From "The Military Affairs" column by Sayid 'Iz al-Din]

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources stated that the Soviet Union last month provided Syria with 250 advanced T-80 tanks, and that 100 of these tanks have been deployed in forward positions at the front of the Golan Heights, along with another 400 T-725.

It is worth mentioning that the Israeli army does not possess any advanced tanks which could match the T-80 tanks.

Phalange Party Violates Lebanese Consensus

JN200941 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0733 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Damascus, 20 Feb (SANA) — The Newspaper *TISHRIN* has reaffirmed that the tripartite agreement is the only solution to end the Lebanese crisis and sedition and to extricate the ufshiftfraternal country from its problem.

In a comment today under the headline "Lebanon and theDesired Solution," the paper says: In his interview with the Frenchpaper *LIBERATION*, President Hafiz al-Asad shed further light on the Lebanese situation that became more complicated and volatile after some have tried to undermine the tripartite agreement contrary to the will of the overwhelming Lebanese majority.

The paper adds: Throughout the negotiations among the warring parties, Syria was eager to push each party a step toward the other parties. Syria was also eager to make many Lebanese politicians, national personalities, and active parties join the negotiations to crystallize the tripartite agreement that was actually signed and that was supported by the overwhelming lebanese majority. The hopes of a near end to the crisis were resurrected.

The paper explains that the Phalange Party leadership then violated the Lebanese consensus in an attempt to impede the implementation of the agreement and to foil the intensified efforts that were exerted to end the ordeal and enable Lebanon to restore its well-being. The paper cautions that Syria will not remain idle toward the development of events and attempts to keep Lebanon without a solution because Syria, which has exerted efforts and offered huge sacrifices in Lebanon for the sake of achieving the solution, will not allow matters to proceed toward a chasm because this means foiling these efforts and failure to obtain the fruits of these sacrifices.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* affirms that the Lebanese parties that obstructed the implementation of the agreement are called to shoulder their responsibilities toward Lebanon by returning to the correct path so that this agreement can be implemented. The agreement constitutes an advanced stage, and, accordingly it is an agreement among the Lebanese who approved it as a means to solve the crisis and end the sedition.

Further Reportage, Commentary on Husayn Speech

W. Bank Parliamentarians Summoned to Amman

TA210916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0827 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Five members of the Jordanian Parliament who reside in the territories have left for Jordan. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that these Parliament members from the territories — and residents of the territories comprise half of the Jordanian Parliament — were summoned urgently to Amman. Observers in East Jerusalem link their departure for Jordan to moves issuing from King Husayn's speech and his decision to halt political coordination with the PLO.

MK's Reactions

TA201029 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Here are some more reactions to King Husayn's speech: Knesset Member [MK] Sara Doron believes the speech proves that Husayn is seeking U.S. aid, and perhaps even weapons for his army. She believes the king has no courage to enter negotiations without the PLO.

The Tehiya Knesset faction believes the speech exposed the Alignment's political methods, which are based on illusions. The only realistic policy is to implement Israeli sovereignty in the territories and strengthen the settlements.

Citizens Rights Movement MK Yosi Sarid believes that Husayn's speech reflects the tragedy of all sides and does not open any new options.

HADASH MK Me'ir Wilner maintains that the speech proves that the agreement between the Jordanian king and 'Arafat was doomed to failure. He believes there can be no solution without recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state alongside Israel.

Further Foreign Ministry Reaction

TA201713 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The evaluation in the Foreign Ministry is that Israel may appeal to the United States with a request for explanations of several details included in Husayn's speech, details regarding the U.S. position on the political negotiations. Today people in the Foreign Ministry are saying that nobody in Jerusalem knows about the document in which, according to Husayn, Washington has guaranteed to invite the PLO to a peace conference if it accepts Washington's conditions. The evaluation formulated this morning in the Foreign Ministry is that last night's speech should not be regarded as a sign of an absolute break between the PLO and Jordan. Here is our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel:

King Husayn's speech is not just a statement of position, but also an interesting, factual, historic document. The long speech containing a detailed review of the past year's contacts and talks gives us the chance to also learn something about how the negotiations on the Jordanian-Palestinian side progressed and, what is no less important, it also teaches us about the positions presented by the United States to the Jordanian king. In this regard, that which, in particular, gave rise to questions was Husayn's disclosure that about a month ago, and in writing, the United States guaranteed that if the PLO recognizes UN Security Council Resolution 242, agrees to negotiations with Israel, and refrains from the acts of terrorism, the organization will be invited to the international peace conference. Husayn also claimed that the United States had agreed that this conference would be convened not only on the basis of UNSC Resolution 242, but also on the basis of a guarantee of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, as he expressed it. All this was really something new for Israeli ears, at least for those located in the Foreign Ministry, and sources from the Foreign Ministry told us today that an examination will be made of all the facts expressed in Husayn's speech and, if required, the questions will be raised directly with the Americans. An initial evaluation presented by the Foreign Ministry this morning within the framework of a short document states that the speech should not be regarded as an absolute break between the PLO and Jordan. It is more of a separation period. Husayn did not close the door on renewed contacts, nor did he present an alternative to the PLO as a partner in the negotiations. The document also states that despite the fact that 'Arafat's name was mentioned many times as being responsible for the failure of the negotiations, Husayn treats the Jordanian-PLO agreement as an important document that enables him to participate with the Palestinians in the peace process. This, it should be recalled, is the only document in which the PLO expresses a positive attitude toward a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as a counterweight to an independent Palestinian state. Another interesting matter is that Husayn did not use terms of incitement and hatred of Israel, but he did typify Israel as a negative element, a country that founds its policy on military power. In the final analysis the Foreign Ministry's official reaction was restrained. At least it was more restrained than that of the prime minister. Husayn's speech, the announcement issued this morning said, confirms the Israeli claim that the PLO is an obstacle to peace and cannot be a partner in negotiations. Despite the differences in nuances in the reactions, it does not appear that Husayn's speech is going to become a pretext for a new dispute in Israeli politics. It does not require an Israeli decision and it seems that the decision must now come from the PLO, the Arab countries, and the leaders of the territories.

Ilyas Frayj Comments

JN201743 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by radio correspondent Ibrahim Shahid carried within the "With The Events" program; date and place not given]

[Text] [Ilyas Frayj] The break in political contact now between the Palestinian leadership and the Jordanian Government will have bad repercussions. This situation should not be left so, because it will create a vacuum. I hope that the PLO's leadership will reassess the matter and rectify the situation. As his majesty said, the occupation continues and land is lost, and if the land is lost we will become a community without any future.

[Ibrahim Shahid] Therefore, do you believe that the reason behind the Jordanian step is the failure of the PLO leaders to adopt a clear decision on 242 and 338 in order to participate in the international conference?

[Frayj] This is correct and the king showed this very clearly and frankly. The dialogue took place in order to open the road to negotiations. Regrettably, this has been lost. In my opinion, all efforts should be devoted to liberate the land. If relations between Jordan and the PLO are frozen, the situation will be very difficult and will have bad and dangerous repercussions. I fear that this situation will have bad effects for citizens in the West Bank and Gaza as happened in April 1983. All I can say now is that his majesty's speech will have a strong and positive effect on the course of events and [word indistinct] public opinion in the West Bank because the future of the people here is at stake.

[Shahid] Do you believe that this Jordanian decision will affect Jordanian-Egyptian and Jordanian-Syrian relations?

[Frayj] In my opinion, Egypt was not surprised at the Jordanian decision, nor was Syria.

[Shahid] This was Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj's comment on the Jordanian decision announced in King Husayn's speech.

Further Details

JN201851 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Telephone interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by unidentified radio correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] [Ilyas Frayj] I hope that the separation between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships will not last a long time because this would greatly harm the citizens of the occupied territory. I appeal to the Palestinian leadership to work quickly in order to save the situation. Undoubtedly, the king was clear, frank, and daring in his speech. He dotted the i's and crossed the t's. The speech greatly embarrassed the PLO leadership. We are waiting to hear the PLO's frank and positive response.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, what is the impression now prevailing in the West Bank after King Husayn's speech?
[Frayj] I affirm that the speech made a very strong impression on the people of the West Bank and Gaza. The citizens are waiting to hear what the PLO will say. They are also waiting for comments and statements that may be issued by Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and others. However, there are fears about the future. The future here is very dark after 19 years of occupation. Is this a (?turning point)? Will the occupation continue forever after the freezing of relations?

[Correspondent] When you say that the king has dotted the i's and crossed the t's, does this mean that you support what King Husayn said?

[Frayj] I immediately supported King Husayn's speech because he was clear and frank. The king based what he said on facts. My opinion is known. I have always said that the military solution does not exist and our Arab situation shows this. There is a political solution only, and the political solution would be under the umbrella of an international conference based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. There would be no harm at all in accepting these two resolutions.

AL-FAJR Editorial

TA201942 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 20 Feb 86 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-Jordanian Relations Continue"]

[Text] In his long speech delivered yesterday King Husayn analyzed in detail the Jordanian position regarding political moves, and surveyed the pillars on which Jordan builds its policy, as well as his own view of the situation in the region.

King Husayn expounded on the three Israeli options, which are: The Labor Party's plan which calls for partial withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, known as "the Jordanian option"; the Likud's view to annex the land and not give the Palestinians their legitimate rights; and the third view calling for the annexation of the land and expulsion of the Palestinians by force.

King Husayn announced the failure of the recent talks between the PLO and Jordan because of lack of identity of views between the two sides. After a quick reading of his speech it becomes clear to an observer that the PLO and Jordan agree that the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples are facing the same Israeli expansionist policy, and that both sides do not accept the proposed Israeli plans as a basis for a settlement.

The views of the two sides are also compatible with regard to the resolutions of the Fes summit as well as the Arab peace plan emanating from this summit, which was adopted by the Palestine National Council in its 16th and 17th sessions and endorsed by the Jordanian Government.

The element of difference in interpretation lies in the problem of acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Jordan, as a state, recognizes these two resolutions because they deal with boundaries and not with the issue of a people, while the PLO does not recognize these resolutions as it is a national liberation movement fighting for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is the right to self-determination. Therefore, as far as the PLO is concerned, the overriding issue is to guarantee the Palestinian rights. At a time when Jordan is asking for land before rights, the PLO is insisting that the rights and the land are linked together and cannot be separated.

However, the Jordanian king stressed that his country is committed to the resolutions of the 1974 Rabat summit which recognized the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people -- wherever they may be. He also affirmed that Jordan will strive for a comprehensive solution by means of an international conference attended by all the parties in the conflict, headed by the PLO and Syria. He also emphasized that Palestinian-Jordanian relations are still governed by the Amman agreement, and this is the same emphasis on adherence to the agreement as announced by brother Abu 'Ammar. If anyone is to be blamed for the failure of the talks, it is the American side which, by rejecting the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, did nothing to ensure the success of the talks.

'Slap' at 'Arafat

TA202132 Jerusalem AL-MITHAQ in Arabic
20 Feb 86 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "A New Slap and Two Options"]

[Text] The new and powerful slap dealt this time by Jordan to the official leadership in the PLO, as with previous slaps, was not unexpected because the new approach adopted by 'Arafat bypassed the desires and aspirations of the Palestinian people. We see in this new and powerful slap, implicit in the Jordanian king's speech, the definite result of the approach and option adopted by this leadership.

We definitely believe that this slap was meant to restrict the options open to the official leadership to two only: total and complete surrender to the U.S.-Israeli conditions for a settlement, or the replacement of this leadership with some personalities from the territories. Notably, this slap was administered after Jordan benefited from previous concessions by this leadership and had consolidated its positions inside the territories, whether by means of the joint committee or through the excellent relations established with this leadership under the watchword of seeking settlements. In addition to this Israel, America, and the rest of NATO countries have acted and continue to act in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the official interest of Jordan, supported by and sometimes with the open blessing of right-wing Palestinians, as in the case of appointments to municipality councils — the current topic.

If we take into consideration what followed previous slaps to the official leadership, as well as 'Arafat's recent visit to the Egyptian Camp David regime, the nature of this leadership, and its statements regarding the recent American smoke screen, it becomes apparent to us that despite the new slap dealt to this leadership it will continue to promote American solutions as it has in the past. We emphasize this reality to some of those who earlier considered the possibility that the leadership might retreat and at the same time we stress that the options of retreat will remain open only on one condition, namely, that the forces opposed to the official leadership's approach are united, inducing the PLO to return to its national line opposed to imperialism.

Morning Editorials

TA210738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0430 GMT 21 Feb 86

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *HA'ARETZ* says that Husayn's speech fell on many inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip like thunder, and they are not expected to recover quickly. The blame for closing the door on a solution to their problem has been laid directly at the feet of the PLO leader. They will now have to understand that there can be no hope from the direction of 'Arafat and company. The defense minister and prime minister have appealed to them to draw the logical conclusion from the disappointment experienced by Husayn. We will now have to wait a while for balanced reactions from Arab leaders in the territories. If an awakening begins among them, it would be very desirable for Richard Murphy and his people not to interfere by continuing to act as the PLO's advocates.

DAVAR writes that while one can agree to parts of King Husayn's sharp comments on the present freeze in the peace process, but no conclusions can be found in his remarks on what must be done. It is possible that by his blunt remarks the king meant to exert more pressure on the PLO. If that was his purpose, he will probably be disappointed. If Husayn is really convinced that time is running out, both due to the urgency of the matter at hand and due to the approaching rotation in the Israeli Government, then he must show daring and enter the peace process as soon as possible, accompanied by reasonable Palestinian representatives from the territories. His speech — if it was not merely a futile exercise directed at the PLO — points toward the negotiating table. His analysis, which confirmed what the inhabitants of the territories already know, should bring them to the realization that the PLO offers them no advantage. Instead they must take their fate into their own hands and negotiate with Israel, with King Husayn or without him.

HATZOFE writes that this is the first time an Arab leader has admitted in public that the PLO is an obstacle to peace. From Israel's point of view this is the only real achievement. Other achievements cannot be perceived; even if King Husayn agrees to continue secret contacts with Israel, in the future, he will not be able to make peace with Israel because for this he needs support — if not the PLO's at least that of the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria. All signs indicate that it is doubtful that he can find supporters among the Palestinians. So from the political point of view, it can be said that nothing has changed.

THE JERUSALEM POST believes that although Husayn's purpose is to force 'Arafat to accept Jordan's terms, he may be creating a fresh opportunity for peace talks. If that opportunity emerges, it will be due primarily to the peace policy pursued by Shim'on Peres and to Husayn's justified fear that after the scheduled political rotation in Israel there will be no one to negotiate with and nothing to negotiate about.

HAMODI'A writes that one of the questions to be asked following the failure of Husayn's efforts, is whether the prime minister will try to implement unilateral autonomy. It is doubtful that he can obtain the agreement of his government, because even close Alignment members differ with him on this issue. This idea carries a serious security risk. However, it is very doubtful that he will obtain partners on this issue from the Palestinian population. Nobody among that population would be willing to risk his life by disobeying the PLO. Nevertheless, this political move also appears to be part of the efforts to improve Israel's image, an exercise which has so far proved successful.

Peres, Labor Party Members

TA210933 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Feb 86 pp 1, 13

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman, Roy Isacowitz and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv — King Husayn speech Wednesday was the strongest condemnation of the PLO's role in blocking peace ever made by a responsible Arab leader, Prime Minister Peres said yesterday. "Until now we've been attacked for not negotiating with the PLO. Husayn has been negotiating with the PLO for a year, and what did he get out of it?" Peres said, addressing lawyers here.

"I already said weeks ago that 'Arafat has nothing to offer the residents of the administered territories and Husayn fully confirmed what Europe, too, will realize now: that the PLO does not want to solve the Palestinian problem, but to exploit it in order to maintain its organization." It was now up to the residents of the West Bank and Gaza to take matters into their own hands and start representing themselves, Peres said in a seperate address at Tel Aviv University.

Likud sources, who were agreed that the speech did nothing to advance the cause of peace, nevertheless pointedly refrained from attacking Labour's responses, apparently in an effort to avoid exacerbating coalition disputes.

The general reaction in Labour was satisfaction that the so-called "PLO option" had been discredited, tempered by an awareness that peace talks with Jordan appeared no nearer. But Labour MK Mikha Harish, who heads the committee preparing his party's diplomatic position paper, said the speech could herald a new peace initiative. He cautioned, however, that it would be several weeks at least before the speech's effects became clear. Israel must now begin "thinking unilaterally," Harish said, meaning unilateral autonomy, or independent negotiations with Palestinians in the West Bank or in Jordan. Labour's programme on the territories will only be drawn up in late March, on the eve of the party's convention.

Labour MKS also said that, while the speech put an end to the PLO option, it made the rotation that much more likely, because with no palpable Arab peace effort under way, the party will have to honour the rotation agreement.

AL-TALI'AH: Abrogate Amman Agreement

TA202142 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 20 Feb 86 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What After the King's Address?"]

[Text] King Husayn's speech constituted a clear defense of the benefit of moving toward America, and extolled the results which he reached in his talks with the United States.

However, the main point in the king's address was his declaration on ending political coordination with the official leadership, his accusation that it reneged on its commitments, and his appeal to the Palestinian people, particularly in the occupied territories, "to rectify the process" as noted in the speech. The king's assessment of his moves and his praise for the results reached by him are seen to be greatly exaggerated when subjected to a thorough review. The U.S. Administration's agreement on the participation of the PLO in the international conference after it announces its endorsement of Security Council Resolution 242, means nothing so long as the U.S. Administration has not agreed to vest any powers in that conference. There is no guarantee whatsoever that it will grant effective power, especially when the final say in this connection will belong to the Israeli Government.

The official leadership's endorsement of Security Council Resolution 242 will be, in this instance, a concession with nothing gained in return because this conference will not be held so long as its powers are not determined or are insufficient. And so long as Syria and the Soviet Union do not participate in this international conference, it will not have complete powers.

Despite this, King Husayn clarified sufficiently his plan for the future, which is: Adherence to the Amman agreement, without the official leadership, and "referring the matter anew to the lecterns of Palestinian dialogue in the occupied territories and the diaspora." This means that presently the occupied territories will witness another campaign, similar to the one that preceded the signing of the Amman agreement, to endorse the Jordanian position.

At any rate the situation will depend on the reaction of the official leadership to the Jordanian address. However, there is one important and clear element, namely, that "shrewd" and "cunning" methods and playing with words do not constitute a political move and do not fool anyone, and in the end will backfire on those who practice them.

It if was a positive thing for the official leadership to refuse endorsement, in return for nothing, of Security Council Resolution 242, nevertheless its actions in accordance with the Amman agreement helped King Husayn to put it in the dock, in his speech on the basis of standards he had agreed upon with the leadership.

If the Amman agreement was conditional on and for the sake of a joint movement, as the official leadership said on signing it, King Husayn's ending of this joint movement requires this leadership to abrogate the agreement and renounce all its articles.

Peres Supports New Economic Growth Phase

TA201755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The prime minister has stated that the Labor Party will not be part of a government that creates unemployment and destroys agriculture, industry, and the development towns. In a meeting of the Labor Party Central Committee, Mr Peres said he fully supports the Histadrut's demand to fight rising unemployment and to draw up an emergency plan for employment in the development towns. He is in no rush to begin the economic growth phase, Peres said, but noted that in his opinion economic conditions do not allow for further procrastination. To achieve this growth, the prime minister emphasized, there is no need to print money or to harm savings schemes.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the prime minister again criticized the finance minister and the Likud which have been rejoicing over the economic plan as if they had been the ones who initiated it. Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar stated that it had not been for the Histadrut's cooperation the finance minister would not have been able to carry out any part of the economic plan.

Alignment Supports Peres

TA201222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The Alignment Knesset faction has decided to support the prime minister's demand to resume growth in the economy. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the Labor Party Central Committee will convene shortly to adopt a decision on this issue.

In the Knesset faction meeting, the prime minister criticized the finance minister and the Likud because, according to him, they oppose the continuation of the economic plan. Mr Peres called on the Alignment not to be alarmed by the Likud's reactions, and said he is convinced the growth will succeed.

The prime minister said that in his meeting tomorrow with the Likud representatives, he will demand that they agree to resumption of growth and to the establishment of a joint ministerial committee which will deal with this matter. He will also demand a re-examination of the political appointments made to date.

Continuing Reportage on Search for IDF Soldiers

Peres Says Search To Continue

TA201818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Shim'on Peres promised that we will not ease up on the activity in southern Lebanon until the traces of the kidnapped soldiers are found, until the kidnappers are punished.

[Begin Peres recording] The IDF is now deployed in southern Lebanon. It is not looking for territory, it is not looking for water, it is not looking for politics. We have no interest in any swimming [as heard] or annexation of Lebanon. But the IDF will not ease up until it finds traces of the two missing soldiers and those who kidnapped them are punished. [end recording]

On the matter of terrorism, the prime minister was today asked for a reaction to the speech King Husayn made yesterday. At the Labor Party Central Committee meeting, faced with dozens of correspondents, microphones, and cameras from Israel and abroad, the prime minister emphasized that yesterday Husayn said of the PLO what has already been said in Israel.

[Begin Peres recording] Husayn did not slam the door on a continuation of the peace negotiations and I invite him to pull the cart of peace, together, in the future, [wild applause] until it reaches its destination. I invite the inhabitants of the territories to get up on that cart [laughter] because terrorism could cause us to suffer as victims, but, for them, it is jeopardizing their future; it is eroding their goals and if they do not take matters into their own hands in time, the time could disappear. [end recording]

'Sabotage Material' Seized

TA201317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A katyusha rocket fired from the north landed today in the Marj 'Uyun area in southern Lebanon, but no damage was caused. Another katyusha rocket landed in the same area yesterday as well. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IDF is still conducting searches in southern Lebanon and also today it seized large quantities of weapons and sabotage material.

UNIFIL Soldier Wounded

TA201841 Jerusalem Domestic service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] This afternoon a UN soldier from the Irish unit received stomach wounds from shots fired by a soldier from the army of southern Lebanon [ASL]. He was hospitalized in the UN hospital in Al-Naqurah. The UNIFIL headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that an ASL convoy passed by the Irish battalion's command headquarters in the village of Bra'shit and all of a sudden bursts were fired into the camp from one of the trucks. The Irish soldier was hit while resting in his room. The United Nations has submitted a sharp protest over the incident to the IDF.

Commander Comments on Search

TA210617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] An IDF soldier, Sergeant Alon Ben-Shahar, who was killed yesterday in a clash with terrorists in the village of Srifa, will be buried today in Jerusalem. In the exchanges of fire which ensued, eight armed terrorists were killed. The searches are apparently continuing. Here is our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

[Begin recording] [Tal] Following 4 days of searches in southern Lebanon, it appears that the IDF is carrying out an old threat made when the army was withdrawing from Lebanon and deploying in the security zone. Nobody will call it a scorched earth policy, but the intensive searches have a devastating effect on southern Lebanon. Again we have columns of tanks and armored personnel carriers, search forces moving under protection; men are being concentrated in mosques or schools; and katyushas, explosives, RPG launchers, ammunition, and weapons are being found in houses. Again there are clashes, mainly with Shi'ites, during attempts to find a lead regarding the kidnapped soldiers. And again curfews are being imposed on villages in the south, and the IDF, just as in the period before the withdrawal, is faced with hostile Shi'ite resistance.

Ori Or, commander of the Northern Command, hastened to the village of Srifa, north of Tibnin, yesterday. A year ago his forces searched that village and found terrorists and weapons. Yesterday fire was opened at the search forces and Sergeant Alon Ben-Shahar of Jerusalem was killed. The IDF returned heavy fire and eight terrorists were killed.

[Or] I arrived during the incident. We returned thee fire from artillery and all other weapons we had in the area. After fire was opened and they suffered casualties, our men were extricated from the site.

[Tal] Are there any new orders concerning the movement and operation of forces in this sector, due to the danger involved and the fact that soldiers are being wounded?

[Or] The orders are not new; they are old. According to these orders every patrol or other activity should be conducted in the safest way. However, there is no doubt that when we are deployed over a broad territory, which is partly hostile, people may indeed be hurt, God forbid.

[Tal] What are the plans now?

[Or] As long as there is a chance for some kind of sign, or anything else that will show that the soldiers are on one side or the other, we will continue with the searches. During these searches we are locating very large quantities of weapons everywhere, including in UNIFIL areas. However, the main emphasis is on out two missing soldiers; the IDF is obliged to doing everything possible to locate them, or at least to discover indications of where they are.

[Tal] The searches will continue today as well. So far the IDF is holding several dozen suspects. Thousands have been interrogated so far, and it is possible that as the searches continue there will be more firing incidents.

The IDF is activating infantry forces, tanks, and assault helicopters. The order is to avoid unnecessary risks, and this means sharp artillery, helicopter, and tank reaction, with all it entails. [end recording]

Further Details

TA202120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that after the incident in which an IDF soldier was killed, IDF troops identified more terrorists in the village of Srifa. For almost 2 hours, our soldiers directed fire from cannons, tanks, and helicopters at the village.

This afternoon the IDF allowed Finnish troops of UNIFIL to walk into the village and to extend medical treatment and to evacuate some of the wounded from the Tyre area. The Finnish soldiers are still in the village.

U.S. Requests Freedom for UNIFIL

TA210538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpts] An Israeli soldier has been killed in south Lebanon in an encounter with terrorists, and katyusha rockets have been fired into Upper Galilee but no one was hurt. More details from Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] Several katyusha rockets were fired last night into the Galilee panhandle and western Galilee, but nobody was hurt. It is believed that they were fired from the area of Lebanon, north of the security zone, in retaliation by the terrorists for the Israeli Army search operation.

The United States has asked Israel not to restrict the movements of UNIFIL or to hinder the UN force in the execution of its duties. The request was made by officials at the U.S. Embassy in Israel in meetings with Israeli Foreign Ministry officials. In Washington U.S. officials have given assurances that the administration will try to raise the money needed for the continued operation of UNIFIL. The administration was convinced that there was no alternative to UNIFIL to ensure certain arrangements in southern Lebanon. Israel has indicated that UNIFIL hampers the Israeli operations against hostile elements and is therefore a nuisance. [end recording]

IDF Soldier Killed in Srifa Clash

TA201917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] At noon an IDF soldier was killed during the searches being carried out in southern Lebanon. His family has been informed. The IDF spokesman reported that at noon an IDF force which was combing the village of Srifa was fired upon. The force returned fire. Eight armed terrorists were killed in the exchange. Weapons were found in their possession. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that after the patrol was fired upon the IDF returned fire with tanks and assault helicopters at the house from which the fire was directed at our soldiers.

Correspondents from the news agencies say that the village of Srifa has been searched more than any other village during the IDF searches. The correspondent reported that they saw about 80 terrorists in the village and this afternoon other armed fighter from other villages joined them.

Shi'ite Clerics, Hizballah Members Flee

TA201011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Reports from Sidon and the Al-Zahrani area say that pro-Hizballah clerics as well as many members of the organization have fled to Beirut and the Lebanese Al-Biqa' out of fear of IDF retaliatory action. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that these clerics have denounced Amal members for not acting against the IDF units searching the Shi'ite villages.

General Or, Herzog Comment

TA201854 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, live in the studio]

[Text] Throughout the day, IDF forces continued to search the villages in southern Lebanon. Altogether, some 20 villages were combed. The kidnapped soldiers were not found, but the forces searching for them discovered large quantities of weapons. The commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or, sums up today's searches:

[Begin Or recording] All our units continued to carry out combing operations in the area we are in. The main objective is to discover, to find a sign, a mark that could indicate where the soldiers are or to give us some sort of help toward another solution. As long as we have no real information as to where the soldiers are, we will continue the searches. In the course of the searches, dozens of katyusha rockets were discovered, as well as 22 RPG's, 107 katyushas [as heard], and quantities of other weapons, both inside UNIFIL areas beside UNIFIL positions and in other areas.

As long as we feel that there is any chance that we have not exhausted all the information that can be found in the field, we will continue with the searches. We will invest every effort and every effort by our soldiers to discover the two missing soldiers. I think that this is the most important trait of IDF soldiers, to search for their missing comrades and I repeat, during those searches we discovered additional squads which worked against us right up to the latest incident and enormous quantities of weapons. [end recording]

[Tal] IDF forces entered the villages, assembled the inhabitants, and, before the searches began, explained to them the aim of the searches. They stressed that the intention is to find people suspected of attacks and find the traces of the kidnapped soldiers. As stated, there were no soldiers [as heard] but katyushas were found in cellars which could have hit Nahariyya from the places where they were discovered. RPG launchers and explosive charges all ready to be detonated were also found, particularly around Tibnin and Al-Sultaniyah.

Today, Israeli President Hayim Herzog, in reply to a question about the reports originating in Beirut that one soldier has been executed, said to us: I hope there is no truth in this.

[Begin Herzog recording] My first reaction is to think about the families and I pray that this is just an announcement and does not reflect an act. This has happened before. I hope the boys are still alive and that we will still find them. We can be proud of the fact that, throughout all the years of the state's existence, there has been a tradition and it still continues in the IDF, not to leave a wounded man in the battlefield and also not to abandon our prisoners. Therefore, for all the years since the establishment of the state, we emphasized this and it is only recently that we have also realized this and we brought the boys home. I hope that this will also occur this time. [end recording]

[Tal] That was the state president. Well, despite the bad news from Beirut and the fears here, IDF forces are continuing the search today and tonight and tomorrow they will also search until they find the kidnapped soldiers or until we find out beyond any shadow of a doubt what happened to them.

10 'Terrorists' Killed

TA201721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Ten terrorists were killed in the last 3 days in the Jazzin area in clashes with army of southern Lebanon troops.

'Secret' Talks Held With U.S. on 'Sensitive' Exports

TA200952 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 86 p 1

["Exclusive" report from the United States by Amir Oren]

[Text] Washington — Israel and the United States have been engaged in secret contacts over an agreement for the control of direct and indirect exports of sensitive technological items to Eastern Bloc countries. In the second stage, the United States might try to incorporate Israel into COCOM [Coordinating Committee on Exports Controls], the NATO committee which supervises exports from the West to the East. Joining COCOM will for the first time grant Israel the status of member in a body which is de facto, if not in name, affiliated with NATO.

However, this could result in the exposure of Israeli defense and commercial secrets to European competitors such as France, unless the U.S. initiative aimed at making Israel the second non-NATO member of COCOM (after Japan) fails.

The Reagan administration has consistently taken action, both in the United States and in multi-partisan contacts, to tighten control of the export of technological wares and other goods that can be used for military purposes to the Eastern Bloc countries, from where sensitive items can reach the East. [sentence as published]

The administration is also interested in formalizing its ties with Israel in this regard, first by way of a bilateral memorandum of understanding, followed by the possibility of adding Israel as a member of COCOM.

ALGERIA

Messaadia Meets with PLO's Salah Khalaf

LD192354 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member and official in charge of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, received a Palestinian delegation led by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, this afternoon. The recent developments on the Palestinian scene, in general, and the situation in the occupied territories, in particular, were reviewed during this meeting. The Arab issues, East and West, also were one of the main topics of this meeting which was attended by Brother Sadouk Zouatin, who is in charge of the Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples Council, and Abu al-'Izz, PLO representative in Algeria.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends 'Open Letter' to American People

NC202029 Paris AFP in English 2006 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 20 (AFP) — Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today called on Americans to press their government for better relations with Arab countries in conformity with "the unique ideals of the great American revolution."

Col. al-Qadhdhafi, in an open letter to Americans given to U.S. national Muhammad Mahdi, chairman of the Arab-American Relations Committee, also denounced terrorism and claimed Libya is "in the footsteps" of the American revolution.

"I'm writing to you as sons and daughters of George Washington, of Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln," Col. al-Qadhdhafi wrote in his letter, according to a translation by Mr. Mahdi. "You are the inheritors of the ideals of the great American revolution which was carried out against tyranny," Col. al-Qadhdhafi said, adding that Libya is "in the footsteps of your revolution, concerned with progress and development at home and liberation movements abroad."

Col. al-Qadhdhafi, whom Washington accuses of harbouring and promoting international terrorists, said Libya was "of course against terrorism" and condemned it "whether carried out by individuals, groups or states."

He then appealed to Americans to do their "utmost" for "better ties with other nations based on mutual respect and cooperation." "Better relations between the American people and the Arab nation are in the interest of the two peoples as well as in the interest of humanity," Col. al-Qadhdhafi also said.

Libya, he added, "is confident that the American people will call upon their administration to conform its foreign policy to the unique ideals of the great American revolution, in the interests of justice, freedom and peace."

Mr. Mahdi, whose organization is based in New York, is visiting Libya in defiance of President Ronald Reagan's ban for Americans to visit or live here after February 1. The ban was imposed last month along with economic reprisals ordered for Libya's alleged involvement in the December terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, in which 19 people were killed.

Mr. Mahdi said he was not a revolutionary, but a civil rights fighter and that he was challenging Mr. Reagan's ban because it was unconsitutional. He also said he had first visited Libya 40 years ago and could now confirm the progress achieved by Col. al-Qadhdhafi's regime.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Sidra Maneuvres Participants

LD201457 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and the supreme commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces made a visit this morning to a naval base and met a number of officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers who participated in the manueuvers by the Libyan Arab Navy, the Air Force, and the Air Defense Force in the Mediterranean from 8 to 18 February.

The brother leader made a speech greeting the officers, the noncoms officers, and soldiers. Upon his arrival at the naval base, the leader reviewed the honor guard assembled to greet him, while the officers, noncoms and soldiers of the base surrounded the brother leader chanting loudly: "Long live the great Al-Fatih revolution". They also declared their resolution to bravely resist the American imperialist and Zionist conspiracies, provocations, and threats and to execute the order of death anytime and anywhere in defense of the Libyan Arab people's revolution, and its cultural achievements. They emphasized that the Gulf of Sidra is a Libyan Arab gulf for which they are prepared to die.

The brother leader afterwards toured some naval units where he listened to detailed explanations on the duties of these units and their combat capabilities.

Jallud Addresses Forum on Confronting U.S., Israel

LD202247 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Feb (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday morning attended the emergency session of the Central Council of the International Federation of Arab Workers Trade Unions at the headquarters of the Producer's Federation in Tripoli. This session is being held in order to reaffirm the stand by the side of the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leadership in its brave resistance to the American imperialist and Zionist threats and plots.

Staff Major Jallud made a speech at the opening session in which he spoke about the morally and materially defeated Arab will, due to the effect of repression, exploitation, and pressure as practised by Arab rulers on Arab citizens. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud said also that unions, trade unions, and parliaments, about which Arab rulers brag, are in fact a falsification of democracy and a distortion of present reality.

Staff Major Jallud emphasized in his speech in front of the Central Council of the International Federation of Arab Workers Trade Unions that the Arab nationalist existence is under greater threat than ever before, and the Arabs have become more convinced of the truth of the warnings of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, when we declared that the Zionist train of death will run over the Arab homeland, one country after another. Staff Major Jallud pointed out that the enemies of the Arab nation are conspiring against any Arab victory and underestimating it with the aim of tearing this nation apart and making it incapable of consolidating its victories. He recalled the American imperialist demands and calls to Libya to stop supporting the Palestinian revolution and not to oppose American conspiracies against the cause of the Arab nation nor support the liberation movements in the world which are fighting for their freedom. This is done out of America's realization of the greatness and importance of the Libyan Arab revolutionary role in the resistance against U.S. policy which is hostile to the aspirations of the Arab nation.

He also emphasized that Libya is fighting for the victory of the Arab nation and its comprehensive unity against which the U.S. stands, pointing out that Reagan has decided to put an end to all the victories of the Third World and to the aspirations of the developing peoples who seek to change the economic system and the redistribution of resources, and to spread technology in the developing world.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud pointed out that the OPEC countries have achieved victories due to the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, which has led the oil revolution of the world and which now faces American and reactionary campaigns which aim to steal and harm these victories by means of economic chaos and threats of economic and military blockades.

He also emphasized that the United States, which the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leadership have resisted, wants us to bow our heads to it, believing that it holds all the cards, to glorify its name, make its black house our holy shrine, and describes the struggle of the Palestinian people and the struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, and El Salvador, as terrorism.

In his speech, Staff Major Jallud called for a method to protect the pan-Arab revival which has arisen in the Arab land — in Libya, Lebanon, Sudan, and other countries. He also called for resistance against U.S. arrogance and the Zionist rampage and for turning the tables on U.S. imperialism and moving from defense to attack, depending, for this purpose, on the sons of the Arab nation and not on the Arab rulers.

Staff Major Jallud also declared that what is being presented to the Arab nation is the method of transforming the confrontation with America to a total pan-Arab confrontation which will restore to the Arab people their vitality and pan-Arabism, and will encourage initiative in confronting America. He emphasized that this proposal will not be realized by the Arab governments and their party organizations, but by the Arab masses in the Arab world.

MOROCCO

Chamber Speaker Sends Message of Support to Iraq

LD201849 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Rabat, Feb 20 (MAP) — Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives Ahmed Osman sent a message to his Iraqi counterpart Sa'dun al-Hammadi, in which he strongly condemned the recent Iranian offensive against Iraq, expressing full support to Iraq.

"The (Moroccan) House of Representatives", said the message, "is following with great concern the tense situation in the Arab Gulf, particularly after the last aggression.... which proves once again the intransigence and the absence of sense of responsibility of the Iranian leaders".

Stressing the "dangerous implications of the new Iranian aggression", and the blow it dealt "initiatives seeking to put an end to this war", M. Osman expressed the "full and unconditional support" of the Moroccan House of Representatives to Iraq in its combat to "defend its sovereignty". The message also expressed hope that clearsightedness will prevail and that Iranian leaders will give up their plans of spreading this destructive war, both to Muslims and Arabs. The message concluded by lauding the Iraqi position of being always ready to peacefully settle this conflict.

Relatedly, the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation Tuesday released a communique in Paris warning all peace loving powers against "the dangerous that the new Iranian offensives represents to their vital interests and to the security of the gulf".

The association calls on Western powers to "make collectively an initiative.... for a negotiated, peaceful and comprehensive settlement" of the conflict guaranteeing both countries' rights. The association warns particularly against the dangers of extension of this conflict and the "threats it represents to world peace".

Lebanese President Arrives for Private Visit

LD202038 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Lebanese Presdient Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Marrakech this morning from Rome on a private visit to Morocco. Accompanying the Lebanese president were his wife and several officials. He was received at Marrakesh-Minarah airport by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed; Her Royal Highness Princess Lala Asma'; Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui; Interior Minister Dris Basri; and his majesty the king's advisers Ahmed Ridha Guedira, Ahmed Ben Souda, and Mohamed Awwad. Also at the airport were the Lebanese ambassador in Morocco and his majesty's governor of Marrakech Province.

SUDAN

Dafʻallah Comments on Austerity, IMF, USSR Ties

JN201017 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum Feb 20 (SUNA) — The Cabinet has decided to impose new austerity measures to halt the smuggling and importation of unnecessary commodities besides controlling the exchange rate of hard currencies and organizing internal and external trade, Premier al-Jazuli Dafʻallah told the daily *AL-AYYAM* issued here today. He added that new taxes would be imposed on some sectors.

Referring to the decision of the International Monetary Fund IMF, to cut off credits to Sudan, Dr. Dafʻallah affirmed the government has started considering bolster of national economy through bilateral economic agreements with a number of countries.

The premier explained that Sudan follows a nonalignment policy pointing out to the efforts exerted to boost the relations between Sudan and the Eastern bloc countries. He further added that a high level delegation would next March visit the Soviet Union to discuss cooperation in all fields. A number of embassies were reopened in many of the Eastern Bloc states he stated.

As regards talks with the IMF Dafʻallah said that his government did not close the doors before the negotiations with the IMF, which adjourned till next March the payment of Sudan's outstanding arrears. In case of an agreement with the IMF we can resume dealing with it, Dafʻallah affirmed.

Foreign Affairs Minister on Rebels, Okello

JN201044 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Jeddah Feb 20 (SUNA) — Sudan has accepted the mediation of Egypt Uganda Tanzania and Kenya for solving the southern question through dialogue, said Foreign Affairs Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayyub. In a statement to the Saudi *ʻUKAZ* paper Ayyub said John Garang refused any contact with the chairman of the TMC and the prime minister.

On the presence of Ugandan deposed leader General Okello in Sudan he said the Ugandan Government has accepted Sudan's proposal for offering him pardon and treating him as a former president. Gen. Okello, he added, would hold negotiations in Khartoum with the new Ugandan government for reaching a peaceful settlement. It is to be recalled that former Ugandan President Gen. Okello was deposed beginning of this year by the then leader of the main guerrilla group the national resistance army Yoweri Museyeni and in turn was sworn in as the new president of Uganda.

Cabinet Discusses Strikes, Economic Topics

JN171127 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 17, (SUNA) — The cabinet in its regular meeting yesterday discussed the phenomenon of strike and the threat by some trade unions to walk out from work unless they [are] offered better working conditions. The meeting under the Chairmanship of Premier al-Jazuli Dafʻallah discussed also the draft law of the Industrial Bank for the year 1986 presented by Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Sayyid Ahmad Tayfur. The draft law was worked out to cope will the national and international development in the industrial sector. The cabinet has passed the draft law and submitted it to the attorney general chamber to formulate it in its final form.

The Council of Ministers' yesterday meeting approved the recommendations laid down by the technical committee entrusted to observe the reinstatement of those who dismissed arbitrarily or for political reasons.

The cabinet also approved in principle the agreement between Sudan and the British Children Relief Organization presented by Health and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Husayn Abu Salih. Under this agreement the British Children Relief Organization will bolster health services in the national capital.

On the other hand, the cabinet spokesman yesterday issued a statement in which he called on all the sectors in the country to stop the strike phenomenon and asked them to suspend all their demands at least in this very period where the country is faced by economic crisis. The statement appealed to all trade unions to play their pioneer role in supporting the national economy.

The spokesman in his statement enlighted the efforts exerted by the government to clinch the differences in hierarchal salary conditions. He added that all the ministers are currently exerting efforts with the different groupings and trade unions in a bid to reach acceptable formulas as regards the deteriorating economic situations. The statement also asked the whole masses to double the production to enable the country (?to overcome) the economic difficulties.

Trade Unions: Regime To Stay in Power Beyond 26 Apr

HK200442 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 20 (AFP) — Sudan's Trade Union Alliance has accused the country's ruling military council of seeking to stay in power after the end of the transitional period it set for April 26. The alliance, a member along with several political parties in the National Alliance for salvation, called on Sudanese to "stand firmly" against such plans, which it said were against the aims and aspirations of the Sudanese people.

It charged that the council's rejection of representation of trade unions and other "modern" groups such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, and engineers in the planned constituent assembly was an attempt to exclude elements which led the successful revolt against the regime of President Jaʻfar Numayri last April.

The council has ruled that the assembly will comprise deputies chosen in general elections on a party basis as well as 28 seats reserved for university graduates. The alliance has stressed that representation of professionals, workers and farmers is vital for the maintenance of democracy.

Five Political Detainees Released From Prison

JN161905 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1738 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Feb (SUNA) — Five political detainees, who served the defunct regime, were released here today for lack of evidence for keeping them in prison. Attorney General 'Umar 'Abd al-'Ati said that there were no charges against them and no need to question them.

The political detainees, who were released, are: Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir, former secretary general of the dissolved SSU; 'Awad al-Jid, the deposed president's adviser for legal affairs; Kamil Muhjub, a leader of the dissolved SSU; Fadlallah Muhammad, former editor in chief of the newspaper *AL-SAHAFAH*; and Ibrahim 'Abd al-Qayyum, former editor in chief of the newspaper *AL-AYYAM*.

Chevron Official 'Disappointed' in Oil Exploration

JN171133 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 17 (SUNA) — U.S. Chevron Oil Company, which is exploring for oil in Sudan, today quoted as saying that it was disappointed by the results of its exploration operations in Western Sudan. It is the first time, adversarily to its earlier announcements, that the company declares the failure of oil quest operation since it began drilling wells in Al-Muglad area in Western Sudan. In the recent years at least three wells were said to be producing oil commercially and along with other minor ones would give a 22000 barrel a day in addition to large amount of oil reserve in the said area.

Today disclosure by the daily *AL-AYYAM* quoted the Director of Chevron Sudan Company however said the company will continue quest despite the fiasco operations by Chevron oil-rich region to the south was halted since 1984 due to the lack of security which arose as a result of the armed activities by the Southern Sudanese rebels of Sudan People's Liberation Army led by Col John Garang. [sentence as received]

In his remarks Chevron official affirmed that the company has no intention to abandon the country and said that the company's experts were engaged in intensified talks with Sduanese officials over the future of the drilling operations in the country. The company is embarked on a reserch programme that would enable it to implement its programme for discovering more oil reserve in the country.

The programme aimed at benefitting from the data collected from the drilling of 78 wells and the geophysical surveys that covered more than 60,000 square kms. The programme will be accomplished by the first half of 1987, the daily quoted Chevron director as saying. The company will benefit from these data in the other area of its concession in which the company will concentrate operations in the near future, the daily *AL-AYYAM* quoted the director as saying.

Army Commander Ready for Talks With Garang

PM141333 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Feb 86 pp 1, 2

[*AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Khartoum bureau report: "General Taj al-Din: Transitional Military Council Welcomes Meeting With Garang To Solve Southern Sudan Problem"]

[Excerpt] The Sudanese Transitional Military Council [TMC] would welome a meeting with Colonel John Garang, leader of the southern mutineers and commander of the so-called "Sudanese People's Liberation Army", in any place to be agreed to and to sit at the negotiating table — if Garang so desires.

This came in a statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* by Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces and member of the TMC. He confirmed his total readiness to meet with Garang and to negotiate with him as a responsentative of the TMC and the Sudanese Government.

Lt Gen Taj al-Din confirmed recent reports about an agreement reached between him and Gerald, chairman of the American black lawyers organization, to arrange a meeting between himself and Col Garang in order to discuss a solution to the problem of the south.

Military Governor: Garang 'Not Active' in Darfur

JN201528 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Fashir/Sudan, 20 Feb (SUNA) — Major General Abu al-Qasim Yusuf, military governor of the Darfur region, has asserted that John Garang's forces are not active in any part of the region. In a statement to the press today, his excellency said the regional government has examined reports that outlaws are active in the region. After thorough observation, it has become clear that outlaws are not active in the region.

In another development, the military governor stated that the Armed Forces and the regular forces were able to control the security situation in the city of (?Al-Junaynah) after burglaries were carried out by Chadian elements. His excellency added that the campaigns carried out by regular forces in the region resulted in the arrest of a large number of Chadian infiltrators and the recovery of 600 stolen camels.

Chadian Refugees Expected in Darfur Region

JN201507 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Fashir/Sudan, 20 Feb (SUNA) — Major General Abu al-Qasim Yusuf [words indistinct], military governor of the Darfur Region, has instructed the competent circles in the region to transfer to refugee camps the great number of Chadian refugees who are expected to arrive in the region after the outbreak of fierce battles in northern Chad. In a statement to the press today, the military governor added that instructions have been given to the competent circles to make a list of these refugees, seize their weapons, and take the necessary measures to prevent their influx into the country.

SPLA Radio Details Latest Operations

EA180022 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Radio Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] correspondent accompanying SPLA's Nile Battalion under the command of Captain Bagat Akuot attacked enemy positions at Gogrial Town in Bahr al-Ghazal Administrative area on 13th February 1986, taking control of the police and prisons headquarters and the market.

According to the correspondent, SPLA's attack on Gogrial, a district in northern Bahr al-Ghazal, came after a government force, which had left the town to attack the SPLA about one km away from the town, was routed by SPLA's special task force. The fleeing enemy force was then pursued into Gogrial Town, where the SPLA task force launched its attack. The commander of the enemy force, First-Lieutenant Raymon Akuol Kuol, who has been responsible for many government army atrocities against innocent citizens in the area, was killed in the initial stages of the fight. Our correspondent has also supplied a list of government prisons personnel, who, he said, defected to the SPLA as a result of the fighting in Gogrial.

The commander in chief of the SPLA, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, and his deputy Lieutenant-General Carabino Kuanyin Bol, have warmly congratulated Nile Battalion for this achievement and urged to the officers, NCO's and men of the battalion to push ahead till complete victory is achieved over the enemy forces in Bahr al-Ghazal.

Six government soldiers were killed and 15 others were wounded when SPLA forces of Twik Twik Battalion shelled Malow Garrison on 11th February 1986. According to Radio SPLA correspondent in Rumbek, the shelling of Malow Garrison was in retaliation to repeated provocations of SPLA by Siwar al-Dhahab's army, who have been harassing innocent citizens as well as looting their property.

In another development, the government forces in Malow are facing starvation. They have not received their salaries since January this year and there is no way they can get their salaries, which have been awaited from Waw, because, according to our correspondent, all ways leading to Rumbek have permanently been blocked by SPLA forces of Twik Twik Battalion under the Command of Lieutenant-General Daniel Aweid Akuot. The correspondent said that Siwar al-Dhahab's forces in Malow are now in a dilemma. They do not know whether to defect to the SPLA or to face starvation and death.

SPLA forces of Timsah [crocodile] and Wolf Battalions under the command of Major Paul Dor Lampuol in the first week of February 1986 conducted three ambushes at Gargup, Aguala and Jal. According to Radio SPLA correspondent in the area, one APC number 2205 mounted with an antiaircraft gun was destroyed and 14 soldiers who were on board were all killed. Two G-3 rifles discarded were found in good working order with the following registration numbers: 36418 and 30322. In Aguala one Magirus truck [was destroyed] and 45 soldiers on board were killed and one Gronov gun that was on the truck was also destroyed, while in Gargup 15 government soldiers were killed and large amounts of G-3 ammunition and RPG shells were destroyed.

According to our correspondent, the convoy was taking food and reinforcements to Ler Garrison, which has been under siege and the government forces there reportedly facing starvation. The correspondent said the remaining government soldiers ran in disarray, some of whom were later reported to have been killed by the civilians as they ran without guns.

SPLA forces of Lion Battalion clashed with Siwar al-Dhahab's troops a short distance away from Poktab on the canal of 15th February 1986. The enemy force that had left its barracks at Poktab were engaged by units of Lion Battalion under the overall command of Captain Thuon Agot in a fierce battle that lasted 3 hours. The enemy was forced back to its trenches, leaving behind several dead soldiers and plenty of machine gun and G-3 rifle ammunition. A number of enemy soldiers were also wounded.

TUNISIA

Chadian Official Arrives With Message for Bourguiba

LD201831 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, Feb 20. (MAP) — M. Korom Ahmed, Chadian secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and President Hissein Habre's special envoy, arrived Wednesday in Tunis with a message from M. Habre to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba.

In a statement he made upon arrival, M. Korom Ahmed said the message dealt with the latest developments on the situation in Chad, pointing out that "the situation on the front has become stable although the government's forces, which have so far succeeded in warding off all the attacks against their position, fear other offensives".

The Chadian envoy also affirmed that Ndjamena's airport, which was bombarded last Monday, "has been repaired and could from now on receive carriers, although the damage it suffered was serious".

Prime Minister Returns From 'Useful' Paris Summit

LD201126 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister and minister of interior, returned to Tunisia yesterday evening. He represented the head of state at the summit of the heads of states and governments of French-speaking countries which was held in Paris. The prime minister was received at Tunis Carthage international airport by a number of members of the government, the Political Bureau and top officials of the party and the government.

It should be mentioned that Mohamed Mzali made a speech at the final session of the summit in which he said in particular that this family meeting had reached conclusions in an atmosphere of general harmony. We must say that, contrary to the expectations of the professional skeptics, our gathering was useful and the first steps we have taken together were both strong and optimistic.

He added that this first summit has defined, first of all, a layout and the main characteristics of a style. On the basis of what is common between us — friendly relations and close cultural ties — and the sharing of one language, we have found out that there are before us greater possibilities of cooperation which can lead one day to the creation of a Francophone region for free exchange.

We have also discovered possibilities of cooperation in the field of scientific research and technical formation and the acquisition of developed technology, and also possibilities for the creation of what can be called a Francophone community of brains under the auspices of which we shall become parties and partners in the field of research and creation, not as producers and consumers.

Mohamed Mzali said finally that what we have lived through is a celebration of thinking and affection and a great hope unfolds in front of our community, and to be fair in this regard we should express our esteemed greeting to all those who have provided an opportunity for such a celebration. In this connection two African leaders deserve our admiration and gratitude and these are President Habib Bourguiba and President Leopold Sedar Senghor; and we address our deep gratitude to France where most of us have learnt the meaning of human rights, and to His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand who due to his wisdom, far-sightedness, generosity and hospitality guaranteed complete success for this summit. It certainly depends on us to keep the hope alive and for the seed not to die. Their living is a benefit for us all.

This meeting has resulted in a number of decisions and recommendations concerning especially the audio-visual, information, distribution of books, energy, teaching and formation sectors. The participants in the summit agreed on the creation of an international Francophone agency for televised pictures and international distribution, and also on extending the transmission network of French Television Channel V to cover the regions of America, the Middle East, and Africa.

The participants agreed on the creation of a network for the excahnge of information between data banks functioning with the method of video-text. A working group has been charged with studying the method of use of the video-disc to teach medicine in the Francophone countries. All the participants also agreed on an international Francophone baccalaureat.

Further Reportage on Visit of Algerian Delegation

Mzali Appeals for Maghreb Unity

PM171119 Tunis L'ACTION in French 9 Feb 86 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The 28th Anniversary of the Sakiet Sidi Youssef Events"]

[Excerpts] During a meeting held in Sakiet Sidi Youssef yesterday morning [8 February] to commemorate the events of 8 February 1958 [bombing of Tunisian-Algerian border village by French aircraft], [Tunisian Prime Minister] Mohamed Mzali delivered a speech in which, on behalf of the Supreme Combatant [President Bourguiba] and on his own behalf and on behalf of the government and the Destourian Socialist Party Politburo, he first welcomed the members of the Algerian delegation headed by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, in his capacity as President Chadli Bendjedid's representative, as a militant, and as representative of a fraternal and friendly people.

The prime minister said that Tunisian-Algerian cooperation continues to develop and extend to new spheres and sectors and is being enriched in original ways. Thus each step taken in the implementation of cooperation projects opens up new horizons and brings new possibilities. In this connection Mr Mzali congratulated Presidents Habib Bourguiba and Chadli Bendjedid, and the two fraternal peoples for this serious, sound, and uninterrupted cooperation which has many objectives.

He pointed out that the success of this cooperation can be attributed to the confidence which characterizes relations between the two leaders and which dates from the first meeting between President Habib Bourguiba and President Chadli Bendjedid.

He pointed out that thanks to mutual confidence, frank relations, and combined efforts, all obstacles can be overcome and all problems smoothed out, stating that the solution to all the questions raised today lies mainly in confidence and ethics.

The Arab Maghreb, a Reality

Mohamed Mzali then said that the solution also lies in cooperation among the Maghreb states, aimed at building the Arab Maghreb and based on mutual respect and noninterference in other people's affairs. He explained that the Great Arab Maghreb is not a dream but a reality with a history and based on a common language, religion, and past. In addition this reality is imposed by political, economic, social, and military considerations. Indeed all facts make it possible to put our faith in the Maghreb into practice by sustained actions like the establishment of unity in educational methods, monetary unity, customs unity, and the implementation of various projects in an atmosphere of cordiality, confidence, and optimism.

He stated that Tunisia and Algeria, by their joint achievements, set an example for the building of an invulnerable Maghreb entity. Indeed in a very short space of time the two countries have implemented many projects which can serve of models of what can be done by two fraternal peoples united by interests and a common future — projects which were just dreams for decades.

Uniting and Consolidating Ranks

Mr Mzali added: "On this solemn day, a day of martyrs and loyalty, a day of resistance and solidarity, I make an appeal to all the region's leaders and to the Arab leaders in general, and I urge them in the name of the unifying elements which bring us together, in the name of religion, language, principles, and honor, to ensure that trust prevails among us, rid ourselves of the effects of colonialism and old-fashioned theories, and gather round the doyen of Arab leaders, Supreme Combatant President Habib

Bourguiba, so that he can give us his advice and the benefit of his experience to enable us to examine our affairs, devote ourselves to building our unity and our destiny,take up challenges, and overcome inherited conflicts so that no force of colonialism or Zionism will be able to attack us."

In this connection, the prime minister stressed that the most pressing duty now is to unite and consolidate Arab ranks and combine efforts to face the challenges, the hegemony, and the aggressions of which the Arab nation is the target, the theft of its wealth, and the exploitation of its resources. In this connection Mr Mzali stressed the need to overcome peripheral disagreements, machinations, and traps, and to work to achieve complementarity and to strengthen mutual confidence.

"We are very hopeful and optimistic about the future," Mr Mzali added, "because we belong to those militants who do not fear problems and whose determination cannot be undermined. Moreover, history shows us that some dreams and tasks can be fulfilled at the height of crises, and that determination, struggle, and attachment to what is essential ensure that solutions are found to crises." He stated that, just as the Maghreb peoples did not despair of freedom and independence during the liberation struggle, they do not now despair of building Great Arab Maghreb unity.

AL-BAYAN Interviews Prime Minister

GF142003 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 13 Feb 86 p 16

[Interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali by unidentified *AL-BAYAN* correspondent — place and date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-BAYAN*: How does Tunisia view its relations with the United States, which clearly works against Arab interests on all occasions?
Mohamed Mzali: Maybe you have in mind the U.S. veto against the UN resolution denouncing the Israeli piracy against the civilian Libyan plane. This stand did not come as a surprise to anybody. We must always realize that Israel is "America's spoiled child." Therefore, why do we become angry and emotional and cause a great deal of commotion? All that the United States did was to use the right of veto and support Israel. This is a fact, and the role that should be played through the Arab policy is that a strategic plan must be formulated in light of the existing conditions. If we Arabs unite instead of differing with and boycotting each other and we do not split the Palestinians into numerous organizations and fronts, will we not be stronger to confront the veto and the rest?

We fight and exercise aggression against each other. We buy oil from Italy and Spain to punish the Tunisian people and then shout about the U.S. veto against any resolution condemning Israel or when the United States boycotts some Arab countries economically or politically. We treat each other worse than the United States treats us. We must question ourselves first, unless we wish to keep our people in check with statements, abuse, and recriminations. Any wise person of this nation knows that our causes will not be settled with bickering, especially when we feel that the Zionist cancer is spreading and we are wilting. This is what has been happening for more than 30 years while we have been shouting and hurling recriminations at each other.

AL-BAYAN: It has been said that the Tunisian-Soviet relations are steadily inproving, especially following the visit by the Soviet deputy education minister to Tunisia and the probable visit by the foreign minister. Does this improvement contradict the previous pertinent Tunisian policy?
Mzali: No. All must know that Tunisia's relations with the Soviet Union are longstanding. For 15 years, at least, Soviet engineers have been participating in Tunisian projects. Tens of Soviet professors have been appointed in Tunisian institutes to teach engineering and technical sciences, including the school of engineering. Soviet-Tunisian cooperation has been established for more than 20 years. The Soviets have participated in building Tunisian dams by providing experience and finances, including the Sajnan, Sidi Salim, and Jamin dams.

Tunisian foreign policy has been based, for many years, on the principle of cooperation with all countries. Maybe cooperation with the United States has increased in recent years. Indeed, the United States supported us against French imperialism in Bizerte and against the French raids on (Saqiya) Sidi Youssef. It supported us when France cut off aid to us under the pretext that we supported the Algerian revolution. When President Habib Bourguiba nationalized all French assets in Tunisia and expelled thousands of French workers, the United States supported us.

We are politically independent and not allied to any side. We cooperate with the Soviet Union, the PRC, the SFRY, France, Kuwait, and the United States. We do not wish to oppose anyone. Often, I have been asked by Tunisian journalists: "What is our stand concerning our ally the United States?" I respond to them: The United States is not our ally. It is merely a friendly country just like the FRG, France, Sweden, and Italy. We deal with it according to our requirements and interests and the circumstances surrounding them. We are not answerable to any side. Tunisia is a nonaligned country and President Bourguiba is always intent on the freedom of decisionmaking. Our friends must realize that, because the issue does not require further clarification.

AL-BAYAN: Algerian-Tunisian relations have recently witnessed notable improvements, especially because of the 28th anniversary of the (Saqiya) Sid Youssef events. Are the relations with Algeria at their best now?
Mzali: Currently, Tunisian-Algerian relations are based on safe principles. Every year, the prime ministers of the two countries meet to discuss these relations and develop them. We also have a joint committee chaired by the foreign ministers of both countries to solve various problems in all fields. Every time we have carried out a joint plan we have foreseen other plans. In other words, cooperation between us is boundless.

AL-BAYAN: How can you respond to those who say that there are two axes in Arab Maghreb: the Tunisian-Algerian-Mauritanian axis and the Libyan-Moroccan axis?
Mzali: This is not true. What binds us and Algeria is the treaty of "harmony and fraternity" which Mauritania signed later. This treaty is open to other countries to sign if they wish. We have been eager to achieve this since the signing of the treaty.

AL-BAYAN: We hope that Libyan-Tunisian relations will improve, although they are less strained than they were until the end of last year. Are mediations effective and are there glimpses of improvement in the horizon?
Mzali: Many brothers intervened to repair the situation. Our stand is constant and unchanged. The Libyan Government must reimburse all Tunisian workers dismissed by it. It must compensate the Tunisian Government for its possessions in Libya according to its rights concerning commercial goods and deals. Libya must also stop interfering in our internal affairs. Other than that, we have no requests because we are brothers.

Education Minister on Future of Tunis University

LD210032 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of higher education and scientific research, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, sponsored this evening at the Bourguiba Institute a dialogue on the present and future of the Tunisian University which was called for by the three party coordination committees in Tunis Province and in which all who are linked with academic life -- namely heads of higher institutes and university establishments -- professors and students took part.

The minister affirmed that from its recent measures the government seeks to deal with the situation in the university, bring the university back to its normal course, and permit it to be a place for study and science. He reaffirmed that the government, regardless of the difficulties and the skeptical attempts, will work toward the implementation of these measures which have been endorsed by the head of the state. He explained that the situation in the university cannot continue and that public force is required to protect the citizen whether in the university or in the street, and is called upon to impose respect for the law. He noted that this does not mean banning the students from having political thoughts and honest political dialogue -- which is remote from the practice of violence and domination and obstructing the freedom of study.

He announced, on the other hand, that with regard to the next academic year there will be no change in the method of orientation and the conditions for granting scholarships, explaining that what has been suggested in relation to these two questions are merely ideas which can only be decided upon after wide consultations.

SOMALIA

Opposition Reports 'Massive Arrests'in Hargeisa

EA202319 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Four years ago tonight, the people of Hargeisa rose up against the dictatorial and oppressive regime of General Muhammad Siad Barre. Reports from Hargeisa confirm that massive arrests of students, intellectuals, businessmen, and members of the general public have taken place this week in and around Hargeisa. The reports say that over 130 people have been detained so far in the regime's torture chambers in Hargeisa. Among those recently arrested by the oppressive Siad Barre regime was Said Adan Egeh, who worked for Radio Hargeisa.

Following the mass arrests, the students of Mahmud Ahmad Ali High School in Hargeisa confronted the repressive organs. They were involved in a stone-throwing confrontation with the police and army. The reports say several students, including head boy Farah Uthman, were arrested.

Unconfirmed reports circulating in Hargeisa say that several of those arrested have died as a result of the excessive beating they received in jail at the hands of the repressive organs.

SUDAN

SPLA Forces Ambush Government Soldier 17 Feb

EA202218 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] About nine government soldiers were killed and many of them were wounded in an ambush by [SPLA] Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of Twik Twik Battalion between Rumbek town and Malow garrison on 17 February 1986. One Magirus truck was destroyed in the ambush. Two more government soldiers were killed in an abortive attempt to rescue the ambushed soldiers.

The SPLA forces stationed at Rumbek airstrip shelled the enemy garrison in Rumbek town and destroyed the market place and the police headquarters. According to our correspondent, the enemy suffered heavy casualties in men and material. In this regard, the commander of Twik Twik Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Aweid Akuot, has repeated his warning to the civilians in the town to leave immediately.

TANZANIA

Trade Facilities Remain Open for Landlocked Nations

EA21007 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 20 Feb

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Today President Ali Hassan Mwinyi assured landlocked countries in East and Central Africa that Tanzania would continue allowing them to use transit facilities for their goods passing through Tanzania. He said Tanzania would do so since it believed that the Indian Ocean is an asset for all countries in the region.

Ndugu Mwinyi made this pledge today during talks with the Rwandan minister for communications and transport, Mr Andre Ntagerura, at State House in Dar Es Salaam. He said Tanzania would continue to allow the port, the roads,and the railway to be used for the transportation of imports and exports for those landlocked nations.

President Mwinyi also reaffirmed Tanzania's stand on support for the liberation struggle until the entire continent is liberated.

Mr Ntagerura, who is currently visiting Tanzania, delivered a special message from President Juvenal Habyrimana of Rwanda. The minister also commended, Tanzania for supporting the liberation struggle in Africa and assisting the continents landlocked states.

CAMEROON

Chadian Minister Received by Biya, Talks to Press

AB201500 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Chad expects from Cameroon — as from all the other peace-loving African countries — an aid to face the Libyan aggression. This was stated this morning in Yaounde by a special envoy of President Hissein Habre. The statement was made at the Palais de l'Unite following the audience granted him by President Paul Biya.

The envoy, Mr Moussa Seil Adoum [Chadian minister of economy and commerce], stressed that Cameroon has always supported the Chadian people. He also expressed satisfaction about the military support France is now giving the Ndjamena regime. The special envoy was interviewed by Michel Job Abaga.

[Begin Adoum recording] Chad has been a victim of armed aggression for the past few days. Everybody knows that the Libyan Army is occupying half of the Chadian territory. This army has just launched a military attack against the strip of land on the 16th parallel [words indistinct] as well as an air attack against Ndjamena International Airport. This is the purpose of my mission to the sister Republic of Cameroon.

[Abaga] Mr Minister, what does Chad expect from Cameroon in the face of this attack?

[Adoum] Chad expects from Cameroon — as from all the other peace-loving, brotherly, and friendly African countries — support and assistance in order to enable it to face this aggression because we believe that if the Chadian people are now engaged in an armed struggle, this aggression also concerns the whole of Africa, particularly all the subregion.

[Abaga] What sort of aid should this be, Mr Minister?

[Adoum] Listen, this aid can be in various forms; it may be political, diplomatic, or moral. The fact that one is not alone in the trial is very important. This is what we require from the sister Republic of Cameroon which, besides, has always been by our side — by the side of the Chadian people — during all their (?trials).

[Abaga] Faithful to its promise, France has returned to support President Hissein Habre's government. Mr Minister, how do you appreciate this new French presence? Do you think that this aid can help your government to face the present aggression?

[Adoum] The French aid came at the request of the Chadian Government. Some people have said that Libya bombed the Ndjamena International Airport because the French Air Force bombed the military — I repeat military — runway at Ouadi Doum built by Libya on Chadian territory. This is a contradiction because the Ouadi Doum runway built by Libya is on Chadian territory and the fact that Libya claimed that it resorted to a bombing raid which was carried out against our own territory — the Chadian territory — constitutes the most flagrant proof of Libya's (?designs). As for us, we appreciate the French aid granted at our request and we appeal to all the other peace-loving countries to help us to ensure Chad's territorial integrity. [end recording]

DPRK Delegation Arrives for Cooperation Talks

AB201750 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The cooperation between Cameroon and North Korea is progressing. A North Korean delegation led by Om Tok-hwan, vice minister of external economic affairs, has been visiting Cameroon since yesterday. This delegation, which has come after the first session of the Cameroon-DPRK Joint Commission held in Pyongyang from 28 May to 4 June 1985, will join some Cameroonian experts to concretize a certain number of decisions adopted during this first session of the joint commission. They will particularly examine development projects in the agricultural, sanitary, industrial, and mining fields. The commercial sector of the DPRK-Cameroonian cooperation will also be examined and, on this occasion, the Cameroonian side will present to the Korean side an up-to-date list of the products Cameroon intends to export to the DPRK.

As far as cultural affairs are concerned, they will probably examine the preparation of a program of sports meetings and of exchanges of artistic troupes. The DPRK delegation will go to the provinces in order to visit some of the socioeconomic and industrial achievements of Cameroon.

CHAD

Libyan-Built Airstrip Said Eliminated by French

AU201550 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Alain Boebion report]

[Text] Paris, Feb 20 (AFP0 — A key Libyan-built airstrip in the north of Chad was put completely out of action by last Sunday's French bombing raid, a top-ranking French general said today, releasing photographs of the bombs exploding on the runway.

General Bertrand Litre, deputy head of the French Air Force's General Staff, also said that a Soviet-built plane which carried out a retaliatory raid the following day on the airport of the Chadian capital Ndjamena had taken off from a base in southern Libya.

The 3,800-metre (11,000-foot) airstrip at Ouadi Doum, built by Libya in rebel-controlled northern Chad, was still unusable by warplanes today, four days after the French raid, Gen. Litre said. He said the Tupolev plane which carried out the attack on Ndjamena airport, "could only have come" from the Libyan desert base of Sebha, further north.

Gen. Litre refused to give details of the attack on Ouadi Doum, which was carried out using special parachute-born munitions designed to cause maximum damage to airstrips. Gen. Litre said the decision to bomb Ouadi Doum had been taken at "a very precise moment," when the forces of President Hissene Habre were gaining the upper hand on the ground. At that point — when French forces had not previously intervened in the fighting — "one could therefore anticipate a very violent Libyan reaction, using major air power," he added.

The decision to bomb Ouadi Doum, which has a "central position" and could have been used to attack French transport planes ferrying in equipment to Ndjamena, was taken to forestall any such possibility, the general said. Gen. Litre said that the airstrip had clearly not been built for purely peaceful purposes.

The aerial photos, taken by the French attacking force, showed two SAM-6 anti-aircraft missile batteries near the runway, as well as Soviet-built tanks, radar equipment and four propellor-driven Marchetti planes supplied to the Chadian rebels by Libya.

There was also a large helicopter. Gen. Litre said that one helicopter was hit at Ouadi Doum, but that "to our knowledge there were no casualties."

The French strike force, consisting of Jaguar fighter-bombers protected by Mirage F-1 fighters and backed up by a KC-135 in-flight refuelling aircraft, had attacked at low altitude with complete surprise, he added.

Gen. Litre was not prepared to say how long the airstrip might remain out of action.

The general also once again said that the Tupolev plane which bombed Ndjamena airport the following day had been flying at high altitude — 15,000 feet, or just under 5,000 metres — and had thus been out of range of anti-aircraft missiles based around the runway. The raid, which was apparently not detected until minutes before the plane dropped its bombs, has sparked controversy in Chad over efficiency of the Ndjamena government's French- supplied defences.

Some eyewitnesses and civilian air-controllers have on the contrary said that the plane attacked at a very low altitude of between 200 and 300 metres (600 and 900 feet).

This version was corroborated yesterday by Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila, who said the aircraft had even simulated a force landing in order to better aim at the runway. There has been speculation that the TU-22 aircraft might have flown in civilian air corridors and been mistaken for a civilian plane.

There have even been reliable reports that the take-off of the bomber, said to have been made from the Libyan airbase of Koufrah and not from Sebha, had been detected by U.S. observation facilities in the region.

Gen. Litre, while denying that the Chadian air defence forces had been taken by surprise by the attack, said it was "quite possible" that it had followed a civilian corridor.

Controversy After Bombing

AB201610 Paris AFP in French 1456 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Feb (AFP) — The bombing of the runway of Ndjamena airport on Monday by a Libyan airplane has raised a controversy over the identification and defense capacity of the airport, further heightened by the overflying of the Chadian capital on Wednesday by an unidentified aircraft, unimpeachable sources have announced. The latter aircraft flew over Ndjamena late Wednesday morning and was apparently not detected until the very last moment. Two "Mirages F1" then took off to identify the aircraft which, according to authorized sources, was a civilian airplane. It could have been a reconnaissance aircraft detailed to take photographs of the French military disposition in Ndjamena.

The controversy has also been fanned by the differences between the sources as regards the altitude at which the Libyan bomber had operated on Monday; this is estimated to be from 3,000 to 5,000 meters according to military sources, and 200 to 300 meters according to civilian sources. [passage indistinct] as well as the aircraft had not been hit during the counterattack of the anti-aircraft defense. On the other hand, civil aviation sources and eyewitnesses say the Tupolev made its attack from a very low altitude, between 300 and 500 meters.

Chadian Minister of Information Mahamat Soumaila stated yesterday that the aircraft had overflown the runway at altitude of 300 meters. He even specified that the pilot had undertook a fake emergency landing to simulate that his aircraft was in distress.

Observers see another problem: According to reliable sources, the U.S. reconnaissance services in the region had reportedly noted the taking-off of the Tupolev-22 aircraft from the Koufra base (southern Libya) and its departure toward Chad. But it is evident that the forces defending the airport were surprised by the attack.

(Authoritative military sources affirmed in Paris today that the Libyan bomber had taken off from the Sebha air base in Libya, specifying that the bombing had been effected from an altitude of "5,000 meters.")

These various facts lead to the question as to whether the degree of protection and detection of the defense system at Ndjamena airport 24 hours after the bombing by the French Air Force of the Ouadi Doum airport built by the Libyans in the north of Chad was sufficient.

According to military sources, the possibility of Libya's riposte, including a possible raid against the Ndjamena airport, had been taken into consideration when plans were being made for the Ouadi Doum attack.

Since the Libyan raid, the means of detection and the defense of the airport have been strengthened gradually as the "Operation Epervier" [Sparrow-Hawk] was being mounted, especially on Monday afternoon and Tuesday. The operation relies essentially on the Air Force, which enhances the protection of the base and of the Ndjamena airfield greatly.

Habre Government Thanks France for Aid

LD181437 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Chad warmly thanks France for its military assistance and swears to liberate the country from the yoke of occupation. In a communique issued after a meeting chaired by Hissein Habre, the government, the parliament and the Central Committee of [UNIR] National Union for Independence and Revolution, the single party in power, congratulate and express their gratitude to President Mitterrand, and to the French Government and people for having responded quickly to Chad's appeal. For Ndjamena the new outbreak of fighting reflects the annexationist aims of Libya against its southern neighbor.

For its part the Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] the armed opposition to President Hisseine Habre, says in a communique issued today in Paris that yesterday's bombing of Ndjamena airport was the work of a Chadian flight and also calls for mobilization for a final attack on Ndjamena.

GUNT Presidency Press Communique on French Policy

AB202027 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1920 GMT 20 Feb 86

["Press Communique" issued by the Presidency of the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, on 18 February in Bardai]

[Text] The French imperialism, whose unavowed design is to partition, or even to erase Chad from the world map, drew up a fictitious line called the Red Line along the 16th parallel in 1984. The famous agreement signed on 16 September 1984 between France and Libya is in no way binding on the Chadian people.

The GUNT, which is the legal and legitimate emanation of the Chadian people, will leave no stone unturned in order to safeguard the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Chad. The GUNT rejects any agreement signed on the back of Chadians. The GUNT issues a formal warning to French imperialism in regard to its gunboat diplomacy and its support for the Ndjamena rebel group. Only the French Government will be responsible for the consequences of that neocolonial policy.

Issued in Bardai on 18 February 1986

[Signed] [no name given] Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Revolution and president of the Transitional National Union Government

Foreign Minister 'Satisfied' With French Aid

AB191457 Paris AFP in French 1327 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, 19 Feb (AFP) — Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou on Wednesday in Paris said that he was "satisfied" with the aid France has given Chad but hoped that Paris will help Ndjamena "to recover the whole of its territory."

"Chad must be completely liberated," he added during an interview he granted to AFP outside the French-speaking summit conference in which he is participating. "The situation would change should the United States help us militarily. In any case, we ask them to do more," added the minister. "Unfortunately, we can take only what our friends offer us," he said.

The U.S. State Department announced on Tuesday morning that the American Government had decided to speed up the delivery of military equipment to Chad and that it was examining the country's most urgent needs for an additional aid, it was recalled.

"Mr Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government (GUNT, armed opposition to Ndjamena) no longer exists and is composed only of mercenaries in the pay of the Libyans," Mr Lassou again declared, adding that "one should expect anything from Al-Qadhdhafi."

According to the Chadian foreign minister, "if Algeria decides to play a role in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict, we think that it could help to solve the problem of Chad." In fact, "Algeria is attached to the independence and territorial integrity of the African countries and in this sense it could play an important role," he added.

On the other hand, Mr Lassou is not very optimistic about the mission undertaken by Nigerian Foreign Minister Bolaji Akinyemi and remarked that he would be going "first of all to Tripoli and then to Paris where he will arrive on Friday but not to Ndjamena." He remarked that Nigeria is "a neighboring country and, therefore, it should help Chad which is being threatened."

As for the Organization of African Unity (presided over by Senegalese head of state Abdou Diouf who is also in Paris), "it has already demonstrated that it is incapable of settling the Chadian problem," said Mr Lassou.

On Wednsday morning, the Chadian foreign minister delivered a message from President Hissein Habre concerning the present situation in Chad to Togolese head of state Gnassingbe Eyadema who is also in Paris. Togo, said Mr Lassou, continues to [words indistinct] officials with the French authorities.

Bongo, Diouf To Talk to Al-Qadhdhafi Over Chad

AB191607 Dakar PANA in English 1559 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, 19 Feb (PANA) — President Omar Bongo of Gabon disclosed in Paris today that he had held talks with current OAU chairman, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, on bringing Goukouni Oueddei and Hissein Habre to the conference table.

The Gabonese president told French television that he and President Diouf had for this reason agreed to talk to Col. Al-Qadhdhafi, adding we are obliged to talk to him.

President Bongo, who has been attending since Monday in Paris the first summit of French-speaking countries, said he was not surprised by the resumption of hostilities in Chad. Ten days before, I was informed by President Habre that something was brewing in the north of Chad.

Asked in a live interview during the one o'clock news on French Television (TF1) about France's intervention in the war, President Bongo said that France has a stake in Chad, adding that she is applying a cooperation agreement she had signed with all independent former colonies.

In reply to a question on the prospects expressed recently that Gabon might grant asylum to deposed Haitian leader Jean-Claude Duvalier, President Bongo reaffirmed his strong disagreement, saying Gabon is not a garbage can for deposed dictators. He also stressed that the summit conference did not examine the Duvalier or Chadian problems although he had referred to them in private talks with President Mitterrand.

Gabon, it will be recalled, has for some time now been the venue of reconciliation talks between a number of factions to the Chadian conflict and the government of President Hissein Habre.

OAU Conference Requested To Examine Conflict

AB202044 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Within the framework of Chad's diplomatic moves, the government has officially requested that the conflict between Chad and Libya be put on the agenda of the upcoming OAU ministerial conference.

CONGO

Sassou-Nguesso Leaves for Burkina Faso

AB201221 Dakar PANA in French 1132 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 20 Feb (ACI/PANA) — Congolese head of state Denis Sassou-Nguesso left Brazzaville Thursday for Burkina Faso, the first leg of a West African tour which will take him to Mali, Senegal, and Togo. The Congolese head of state will leave Burkina Faso on 22 February.

BURKINO FASO

Congolese President Sassou-Nguesso Arrives for Visit

AB201456 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1320 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Comrade President Denis Sassou-nguesso has just arrived. He was welcomed by his Burkinabe host, Captain Thomas Sankara.

GAMBIA

France Opens New French Language School

AB201858 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Banjul, Feb 20 (AFP) -- France has opened a six-million-franc ($850,000) language teaching school in the tiny West African state of the Gambia, which is almost completely surrounded by French-speaking Senegal, it has been announced here.

The Gambia, a former British colony which consists of a narrow strip of land running along the river of the same name, has been linked to Senegal in a confederation since 1982. The new school, which will mainly teach French to Gambian government employees and traders, was opened yesterday by French Ambassador Claude Harel.

GHANA

PNDC Members Leave for CPSU Congress in Moscow

AB210750 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Two members of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], P.V. Obeng and Brigadier Mensah-Woode, have flown to Moscow to attend the 27th congress of the Soviet Communist Party which opens next Tuesday. The visit is at the invitation of both the Soviet government and the Communist Party.

Speaking to newsmen before their departure last night, Mr Obeng said the delegation will meet the Soviet deputy minister for talks on economic and trade as well as political ties between the Soviet Union and Ghana. [sentence as heard] They will also meet officials of the Council for Mutual Economic Cooperation and study its operations for their mutual benefit.

In the meantime, the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has sent a message to the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev, on the Soviet proposals for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the century. He described the proposal as an important initiative for peace to free mankind from self-destruction.

The delegation was seen off by another member of the PNDC, Captain Kodjo Tsikata, and the Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr Semenov.

Delegation Leaves for Havana Health Ministers' Meeting

AB210755 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Another 2-member government delegation led by the undersecretary for health, Dr Mary Grant, has also flown to Havana, Cuba, to attend the conference of nonaligned health ministers. The 4-day conference will discuss health problems of individual member nations. It will also find ways of adopting common strategies, especially among tropical and developing countries.

Dr Grant told newsmen that the conference will discuss traditional medecine and its related practices and how it can be integrated into the orthodox system.

The other member of the delegation is Dr Emmanuel Mensah, deputy director of medical services in charge of Brong Ahafo.

NIGERIA

No Plans To Renew Ties with Israel

AB201716 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Lagos, feb 20 (AFP) — A senior Nigerian Government official today categorically denied an unofficial Israeli report thatNigeria was preparing to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. "It's not true," he said. The report was carried today by Israeli radio, although the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem refused to either confirm or deny it.

He also denied a report from the same source that special Israeli envoy David Kimche had been in Lagos for talks with Nigerian officials. "He was not here," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

Nigeria, along with most other sub-Saharan African states, broke ties with Israel after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. Nigeria, which has a large Muslim population, recently joined the Islamic Conference Organization.

Minister Concerned Over Work Stoppage at FRCN

AB202031 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of the new federal capital, Air Commodore Hamza Abdullahi, has expressed concern over the stoppage of work at the 35 million naira FRCN [Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria] headquarters in Abuja. He made this known today while receiving the zonal director of FRCN, Kaduna, Alhaji Mahamad Ibrahim, in his office. The minister, who described the FRCN headquarters as a striking edifice in the city, urged the zonal director to communicate the issue with the corporation's headquarters in Lagos to see to the quick completion of the project.

ANGOLA

Frontline States' Summit 'Postponed Indefinitely'

AB210946 Dakar PANA in English 0932 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Luanda, 21 Feb (ANGOP/PANA) — The summit of the six Frontline States (Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Botswana), scheduled to take place in Luanda today has been postponed indefinitely, the Angolan Ministry of External Relations has said.

The postponement came in the light of the agenda of some leaders of the Frontline States. During the Luanda summit the six heads of state and government were expected to review the situation in southern Africa. However, the Angolan External Relations Ministry said that a date could be decided after the holding of the OAU ministerial meeting. That meeting will discuss issues pertaining to the organization's budget, the situation in southern Africa and [the] continent in general.

The last summit of the Frontline States took place in Maputo in September last year. High on the agenda of that meeting was the situation inside South Africa.

Paper Says 3 UNITA Rebels To Die for Treason

AB211515 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Luanda, Feb 21 (AFP) — Three guerrillas of the right-wing National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have been condemned to death on treason charges by a court in the southwestern city of Lubango, the semi-official *JORNAL DE ANGOLA* newspaper said here today. The paper named the three as Domingos Miguel Tchiloya, 62, Ilario Kalembere, 43, and Alberto Kativo (age not given).

In earlier developments, a UNITA statement issued yesterday in Lisbon said the guerrillas had killed 64 government soldiers and three of the Cuban troops who are supporting them in operations between last Sunday and Tuesday in three provinces. The statement said the UNITA forces had suffered five dead, one missing and 17 wounded in the operations. The guerrillas captured seven government soldiers and shot down a Soviet-made MI-17 helicopter, flying in the eastern province of Mexico, during the operations, UNITA said.

Angolan radio, meanwhile, yesterday said the South African-backed guerrillas had killed five civilians last Saturday in a village in the central province of Bie. It said an army unit sent to the village, Chinguar, had killed six of the guerrillas and captured three.

Also on Thursday, Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura said that U.S. plans to give aid to UNITA constituted "gross interference" in Angola's internal affairs.

UNITA Says 86 Government Troops Killed During Week

HK200736 Hong Kong AFP in English 0203 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Lisbon, Feb 20 (AFP) — Angola's South African-backed UNITA anti-government rebels said here Wednesday they had killed 86 Angolan Government troops over the past week in fighting in four provinces.

A communique said the rebels had lost only nine dead in the clashes in Moxico, Kuanza Sul, Benguela and Kunda Kubango.

LESOTHO

Military Council Member Interviewed on Coup

MB201915 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A member of the Military Council of Lesotho, His Excellency Colonel Thaabe Letsie, says that the military has to intervene in the affairs of Lesotho on 20 January because of the political quagmire in which the previous government had led the country and because of the political wrangling which led to the hatred and fighting among the Basotho nation.

Speaking in an interview with journalists from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting this afternoon, Col Letsie said that there were several groups in the country who were armed illegally because of political reasons and who were threatening and harassing the nation. He said there were divisions also in the army and police force because of political bias and that the national university of Lesotho had been turned into a political base to further party interests.

Col Letsie said that it was the intention of the Military Council to make itself known to the nation at the Moshoeshoe Day Celebrations on 12 March and in a series of pitsos [rallies] which will be held throughout the country so that the councillors should meet the whole nation.

Referring to the general amnesty which was recently declared by his majesty, Col Letsie said that the amnesty had been received with joy by the nation and especially by the persons affected, and also announced that a report has already been received that some political exiles, such as Messrs (Palatsi), (Masile), and (Makgage), have already returned to the country. Col Letsie gave the assurance that all political exiles returning to the country will be welcome as citizens of this country and must report their presence to their chiefs and abide by the laws of the country.

Col Letsie reiterated that all political activity in the country has been suspended and that people who have been removed from their professions and given political positions would revert to their original professions as there was no need for any political position.

Talking about his recent trip to six southern African countries to deliver a special message from his majesty the king and to explain Lesotho's new position, Col Letsie said that they were given a very warm reception in all the countries visited and that the leaders of those countries displayed great understanding on the new situation in Lesotho.

The countries he visited were Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Swaziland, where the Queen Regent Ntombi even issued an invitation to his majesty the king to attend the coronation of her son, Prince Makhosetive, as king of Swaziland on 25 April this year.

NAMIBIA

South African Spy Network Uncovered in SWAPO

AB201932 Dakar PANA in English 1533 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Windhoek, 20 Feb (PANA) — A South African spy network, numbering at least 100 people, has been uncovered within the military and political ranks of SWAPO.

Speaking at a briefing in London last week, SWAPO's newly appointed foreign relations secretary, Theo-Ben Gurirab, said the agents had been uncovered whilst working within the movements ranks in Angola and in Zambia. He added that four had achieved membership to the organisation policy-making body, the Central Committee, and those accused were now being held in detention in Angola.

Mr Gurirab said SWAPO was revealing the information to counter rumours in right-wing circles in Europe and the USA that SWAPO was engaged in fascist activities against Namibian refugees. There is a well-calculated campaign organised by South Africa saying that SWAPO camps are concentration camps, said Mr Hidipo Hamutenya, SWAPO's secretary for information.

SWAPO manages refugee camps in Angola and in Zambia with an estimated population of 60,000 people. The SWAPO officials pointed to the presence of Swedish, Norwegian, and German teachers and nurses working with refugees and dismissed misguided concentration camp charges.

The spy network, which was first detected in December 1983, had penetrated both wings of the organisation and, according to Mr Gurirab, it had taken two years to investigate the cases. Every revolution has to go through this sorrow and these crises. These people are not our enemies; most of them have been misled and we will not victimise them, he added.

Gurirab pointed out that there were others who were real traitors and they could not be rehabilitated. SWAPO is not a charity organisation but is engaged in the liberation of our country. These men have provided information that was used for killing our people, he said.

The SWAPO officials showed videotapes of some of the purported spies in interviews, detailing their activities for the South Africans. They looked fit and did not appear to be coerced. Most of those identified as spies seem to have been forced into their work by threat or blackmail.

In one video confession a SWAPO member admitted to becoming an informant while being held in detention in Namibia. He told of threats to his family if he refused. Trained in detention, he was released and then re-detained to give him extra credibility. Then he left the country via a SWAPO escape route and joined SWAPO's military wing plan.

According to SWAPO sources the spy network was detected by tracing the origin of highly specialised SWAPO military maps discovered in South African Army offices in Namibia. A copy of the map found its way to SWAPO headquarters in Angola.

Suspected SWAPO staff were asked to draw a map to similar specifications and the result was an exact copy of the original. The map-maker was questioned and the trail led to his superior —one of the persons viewed on the videotape.

Another of the spies has been recruited while being head boy at a large school in Windhoek. He was trained in spy techniques at the Eros Army Base outside Windhoek, all the while being an active member of SWAPO. He left Namibia in 1979, studied in Prague, and on his return to Africa worked as a researcher in the office of SWAPO President Sam Nujoma. He claimed to have been given poison tablets to kill Mr Nujoma but did not do so because he feared detection. Until recently this interview had served as SWAPO representative to an international youth organisation receiving funds from a South African agent in Brussels.

The SWAPO officials at the London meeting acknowledged concerns about the detainees well-being. If we were irresponsible, if all that we cared for was to punish these people, this would not have been an issue, said Mr Gurirab. We are spending resources on these people to feed them, protect them, and to provide security for them.

SWAPO officials say they expect a concerted public relations and diplomatic offensive by the Reagan administration and the South African Government to be launched against them in the coming months. Certainly we know South Africa's friends are powerful. SWAPO continues [word indistinct] for an end to South African occupation of Namibia and free election to be held under UN auspices.

Implicated SWAPO Official Detained

MB211232 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1230 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Windhoek, Feb 21, SAPA — A SWAPO military commander is dead and at least one high-ranking SWAPO member is being detained following the uncovering of a spy network in the organisation, news reports said in Windhoek today.

The organisation's newly-appointed foreign relations secretary, Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab, said at a press briefing in London earlier this week that at least 100 people were being held in Angola and Zambia for spying on SWAPO for South Africa.

In a news report today, *THE NAMIBIAN* newspaper said Mr Tauno Hatuikulipi, who was second in command of SWAPO's PLAN (People's Liberation Army of Namibia), was believed to have committed suicide two years ago after he had confessed to passing information to the South African military authorities. It was his confession that led to a two-year investigation which brought to light South African informers inside SWAPO, authoritative sources said.

A news report in *DIE REPUBLIKEIN* newspaper said SWAPO's administrative secretary, Mr Moses Garoeb, was among those detained. Mr Garoeb reportedly wanted to initiate discussions with South Africa against the orders of SWAPO's leader, Mr Sam Nujoma.

In a statement published today, Mr Gurirab said the people being held for the alleged spying would not be brought to trial in the immediate future. SWAPO would look after them in determination camps, but the organisation was "in a war situation" and could not afford to open the organisation for scrutiny by outsiders, he added.

THE NAMIBIAN newspaper reported that many of those held had been recruited as South African agents while they had been in detention in SWA/Namibia and then trained for their missions.

16 SWAPO, 3 SWATF Members Killed in Skirmishes

MB201600 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1535 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 20, SAPA — Security forces in northern SWA/Namibia have shot dead 16 SWAPO insurgents in skirmishes this week, and lost three men in action, the SWA Territory Force said in a statement in Windhoek today.

The dead SWATF members were RFN [Rifleman] Nandago Thomas, 25, RFN Robread Boas, 25, and RFN Albert Hapera, no age given.

The latest SWAPO fatalities bring to 101 the number of insurgents shot and killed to date this year.

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Raid Mrs Mandela's House in Soweto

MB211122 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1122 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Jophannesburg, Feb 21, SAPA — Police yesterday raided the Oralando West, Soweto home of Mrs Winnie Mandela, believing she was there illegally. They visited the home three times. In terms of Mrs Mandela's latest banning order she may not enter Soweto.

According to Miss Zinzi Mandela, her daughter, police arrived at their Soweto home at about 11am in three cars and a van. They returned at 1.30pm and at 4pm. Miss Mandela told the *STAR* "they were armed, arrogant and demanded to see my mother, saying they received information she was at home. They searched the house and could not find her. While they were still there I telephoned my mother.

"She demanded to speak to the officer in charge, but he refused to speak to her and said he was acting on instructions from above. They left after about an hour."

Miss Mandela said she was told the police returned "in a show of force" while she was out, and came again at 4pm and tried to force the main gate. They were unsuccessful and left after 15 minutes.

Police Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria "had no information about the raid."

Leutwiler Announces Debt Rescheduling Compromise

MB201748 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] South Africa and its international creditors have reached a compromise. The mediator of South Africa's foreign debt, Dr Fritz Leutwiler, has presented a compromise proposal to the country's creditors which was greeted with consensus.

[Begin video][Correspondent Jerry Schuitema] South Africa has broken the deadlock. Agreement between South Africa and its creditor banks has been accomplished today in London by Dr Fritz Leutwiler who made the announcement a few minutes ago in the Savoy Hotel behind me.

[Leutwiler, in English] The standstill will come to an end on 31 March 1986. Banks and the arrangements they will make with individual debtors will maintain their exposure to South Africa at not less than 95 percent of the present level until the end of the interim period which will probably be 31 March 1987. I am going to explain this (?properly). Interest margins were in general higher than during the standstill period. There will be considerable flexibility in other respects and finally there should be a major review in February 1987 with a view to determining the best steps in the light of all relevant circumstances and developments in South Africa. [end video]

Stals Comments on Agreement

MB201849 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1848 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] London, Feb 20, SAPA — South Africa has reached a broad agreement with its main creditor banks on an interim plan to resolve the foreign debt crisis by re-scheduling repayments.

Mr Chris Stals, the director-general of finance who led the South African delegation at today's meeting with representatives of 30 international banks, said: "We have taken a major step towards normality today." He said the agreement, under which South Africa will repay five per cent of outstanding loans during the next 12 months with a review of the situation at the end of that period, would be used as a basis for the negotiation of fresh loans.

The debt invoved, on which repayments were frozen in September last year, is 14 billion dollars. The agreement reached today means South Africa will repay about half a billion dollars by March next year. Interest rates will be one per cent higher than when the freeze was imposed.

Dr Stals said that with a forecast current account surplus of 2.3 billion dollars during 1986, and taking into account debt that was outside the bank loans, South Africa would pay out about two billion.

He told a news conference at the South African Embassy that the five per cent repayment would place an additional burden on the balance of payments.

"But it was important for us to look at the proposals in their entirety. We expressed concern at some of the elements, but as a whole it was acceptable to us," he said.

When repayments were frozen last year, South Africa proposed a four-year standstill on repayments. Dr Stals said his delegation accepted the plan today "not without reassurances that there is a lot of understanding and goodwill from the banks — obviously it has a different approach. We proposed four years, this is on a year-to-year basis."

South Africa imposed the freeze after American banks, concerned about anti-apartheid pressure at home and unrest in the country, refused to roll over their loans.

Dr Stals said that at today's meeting no political demands had been made. "The emotion involved initially in the debt problem is now out of it. The banks accept that it is a technical problem," he told the news conference.

The proposals accepted by both sides were worked out by the independent Swiss mediator, Dr Fritz Leutwiler, who was chairman at today's meeting. At a separate news conference, he emphasised that there would be a review of the situation in February next year, and there would be discussions in about six months on South Africa's balance of payments situation.

"The consensus reached is of a short-term nature — a step towards normality in South Africa's international financial relationship," he said. Dr Leutwiler said there had been no political discussion at today's meeting, but he accepted that there was a political background to the situation.

"It is clear to everyone that social stability is part of creditworthiness," he said, and after his recent visit to South Africa he had been convinced that "positive signals" would be given.

Referring to State President Botha's speech at the opening of Parliament, he said it contained "clear and concrete undertakings to do away with apartheid."

Dr Leutwiler, who will continue as mediator between the two sides, said it seemed that the overwhelming opinion of the South African population was that the future lay in reform and not civil war. "Whoever is against apartheid and in favour of reform cannot agree with pulling the rug from under South Africa's feet," he said.

A technical committee will be established to give effect to the agreement, which is due to begin within the next few weeks. Dr Leutwiler said he would inform other smaller banks involved about the proposals, but he did not expect any opposition to them. He said it was possible that some banks would choose not to hold South Africa to a five percent repayment, and would instead do business as normal.

Tambo: Link Apartheid to Rescheduling

MB210827 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Leader of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, has appealed to the international banking community to demand the abolition of apartheid as a price for rescheduling South Africa's debt. He also told a news conference yesterday that the release of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela was a precondition for possible negotiations between ANC and the white-dominated government in Pretoria.

Mr Tambo said that if the representatives of 20 main creditor banks now meeting in London to discuss the scheme for ending South Africa's debt crisis linked their leverage, they could bring about major changes in the republic.

Commentary Praises Agreement

MB210603 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] A semblance of normality is at last returning to South Africa's financial dealings with the rest of the world. The agreement in principle with 30 major creditor banks means that, while the country is not out of the woods by any means, at least the path is now visible.

Although the chairman of the standstill committee, Dr Christ Stals, has stated that the authorities are not unhappy about the compromise reached after months of delecate negotiations, there are still problems ahead. The agreement is broadly based, and specific details of repayments have to be ironed out with the banks concerned. It could take months, and even years, of talks before real finality is reached.

Also, in terms of the compromise agreement, 5 percent of the total of nearly 30 billion rands — that is nearly 1.5 billion rands — has to be paid over the next year or so. While the surplus on the current account of the balance of payments this year is expected to reach 4 billion rands, the drain of currency will certainly be felt.

An additional factor is that an amount estimated to be as much as 10 billion rands falls outside the standstill net, and a proportion of this will also have to be paid during the next 12 months.

The net result of this is that interest rates will come under upward pressure because of the outflow of cash. The rand will possibly not climb much above 50 American cents, and the long awaited economic recovery will take longer to get under way as a proportion of the funds needed for stimulating the economy is syphoned off for debt repayments.

On the positive side, however, a rand at about its current level of around 50 cents will keep cash from exports flowing into the government's coffers, with the rand earnings of exporters being kept at reasonable levels. And this will help to restimulate the economy and put the country back on the road to positive growth.

Of significance was the absence of politics from the negotiations in London yesterday. Both Dr Stals and Dr Fritz Leutwiler pointed out that there had been no raising of political demands during the talks. While social stability is fundamental in the assessment of any investment risks, there is evidently a more sober perception in banking circles abroad of the political and economic realities of the South African situation.

Undoubtedly there are still troubled times ahead. But the breaking of the debt deadlock provides a negotiated basis for stable development.

Tutu Said To Reject Donation Unless ANC Supported

MB201834 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1827 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Bonn, Feb 20, SAPA — Bishop Desmond Tutu has rejected a Coca-Cola international offer of a R25 million trust fund for black education in South Africa unless, among other conditions, Coca-Cola publicly supports the ANC, threatens disinvestment and excludes Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's involvement. This was claimed in Bonn, West Germany, today by Chief Buthelezi in an address on the role of donor agencies in South Africa.

The KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president was illustrating the manner in which, he claimed, international donor agencies could, sometimes unwittingly, be manipulated for political ends. He produced a copy of a memorandum sent to senior Coca-Cola executive Mr David Schneider and signed jointly by Bishop Tutu, his SACC [South African Council of Churches] colleague, the Rev Allan Boesak, and by Prof Jakes Gerwel, rector-designate of the University of the Western Cape.

In it, the two clerics and the academic stipulate, in an indirect but obvious reference to Chief Buthelezi and his Inkatha movement, that "the involvement of any homelands functionaries or persons connected to organisations with official homelands links would preclude our participation." And they urge Coca-Cola to threaten to consider pulling out of South Africa unless the government takes significant steps towards change "within a prescribed time."

They stipulate that such steps must "at least" include the lifting of the state of emergency, the abolition of pass laws and influx control, the release of all political prisoners, the repeal of all discriminating legislation, the establishment of one single ministry for education, and the official end of the homeland policy.

Bishop Tutu, Dr Boesak and Mr Gerwel say in the memorandum to Mr Schneider, a legal executive of Coca-Cola from Atlanta, Georgia, that, while being "fully appreciative of the great benefits that could derive from your donation, we also accept that you will appreciate the larger political context within which our participation is (sic) such a scheme occurs."

They concede that Coca-Cola's donation is intended as support for progressive initiatives seeking non-violent change in South Africa. But they stipulate that such support needs to address also the "political environment" of their efforts to effect non-violent change, Chief Buthelezi, quoting the letter, said.

They also said "a crucial element in that environment is the recognition of the African National Congress as an important participant in the political process."

"Our decision to participate in the proposed trust would therefore be greatly facilitated by Coca-Cola adding its voice to the growing public call for the SA Government to start talking to the ANC.

"The establishment of the proposed trust cannot be divorced from the divestment debate and we would desire that it be abundantly clear that we are not lending support to any effort aimed at relieving pressure for change on the South African Government," the letter produced by the chief said.

Vlok Issues Statement on Meeting With SACC Group

MB201832 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1831 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Cape Town, Feb 20, SAPA — Details of the Alexandra Township problems which a South African Council of Churches [SACC] delegation discussed in Cape Town today with the deputy minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, are to be forwarded to the state president, Mr P.W. Botha.

In a statement in Cape Town this evening, the deputy minister said Mr Botha had been unable to meet the delegation on such short notice, but that he had undertaken to forward details of the two-hour discussion he had had with them to the state president.

The SACC delegation was led by the organisation's president, Dr Manas Buthelezi, and included the vice-president, Dr Alan Boesak, the general secretary, Dr Beyers Naude, and Bishop Desmond Tutu, Anglican bishop of Johannesburg.

"Due to urgent and other commitments which had been arranged in advance, the state president was unable to meet with (the delegation) on such short notice," Mr Vlok said.

"I suggested that they would be most welcome to follow the normal channels in requesting interviews with the state president in the future.

"The state president's views on dialogue with anyone committed to peaceful solutions are known publicly and he would definitely consider such requests."

Mr Vlok added that the two-hour discussions with the delegation "took place in a good spirit."

The SACC delegation arrived in Cape Town this morning from Johannesburg on the understanding they would be seeing the state president but it later emerged Mr P.W. Botha had instructed Mr Vlok to meet them. After their meeting the delegation said they had been "disappointed" at not seeing the state president, but that their discussion with the deputy minister had been "fruitful".

At D.F. Malan Airport in Cape Town, the clergymen cancelled a promised press conference, saying they first wanted to report back to the people of Alexandra tomorrow afternoon.

The black township falls under the state of emergency regulations, with restrictions on the media, so a press conference would be held later tomorrow afternoon at the SACC's Johannesburg headquarters, Khotso House, they said.

Malan Says All Must Participate in Defense

MB201206 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1156 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Riversdale, South-Western Cape, Feb 20, SAPA — The defence of South Africa was indivisible and was the responsibility "of all of our people," the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, said in Riversdale today. Gen Malan, who was officially opening an agricultural show, said the defence of a country such as South Africa was not the limited responsibility of any particular group.

"Defence cuts across lines which divide people in other spheres of life. The enemies of our stability and security do not single out certain groups," he said. "All South Africans, irrespective of colour, population groups and standard of living are targets and are threatened by those who wish us no good.

"The ANC, that puppet of Moscow, is on record for saying it will not single out any particular group. In fact, all South Africans, including civilians, are potential victims of their violence and murder campaigns."

Gen Malan said the essence of their threat against South Africa was directed at the country's security.

"This is understandable because security is one of the pillars of a stable society.

"Those who are out to destroy our society with the aim of replacing existing structure with a Marxist one-party structure go full out for our security. In this respect the forces who have the task of maintaining security and order are prime targets," Gen Malan said. Every possible effort was therefore made to discredit and undermine South Africa's security forces, and suspicion was cast on their role and ability, he said.

"It has become fashionable to accuse the Defence Force of so-called destabilising activities in neighbouring states. This accusation is unfounded. One should only take note of the state president's January 31 invitation to our neighbours to create a joint mechanism in order to deal with, inter alia, security matters."

Gen Malan said such an invitation would obviously not come from one on the war path, but from one who sought peace and stability. The Defence Force always acted as part of the greater state machine and its actions were not isolated, he said.

Because South Africa willingly wanted to "walk the path of peace and good neighbourliness" with its neighbours, it was also the Defence Force's endeavours to seek peace above all else. This always dealt with the security of South Africa and her peoples.

Gen Malan said the state had entrusted the Defence Force to implement this security. "That is why we oppose the ANC so strongly," he said. The ANC was in essence an organisation of violence and terror.

The "garment of piety" with which some — also in South Africa — dressed the ANC suited that organisation very well, Gen Malan said. Those who pictured the ANC as an "apostle of peace" should reflect on the confusion they were causing among the people of the country, and were playing right into the hands of Moscow.

Says Botswana's Fear Unfounded

MB201340 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1339 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Riversdale, South-Western Cape, Feb 20, SAPA — The minister of defence, Gen Magnus Malan, reiterated today that South Africa had no axe to grind with her neighbours. "We seek good neighbourliness," he said. Gen Malan said those with whom South Africa "ruthlessly had an axe to grind" were terrorists who abused the territory of South Africa's neighbours. Naturally, South Africa appreciated actions taken by her neighbours against terrorists.

Gen Malan referred to a press report at the weekend which stated that Britain would send about 90 members of her SAS [Special Air Services] to Botswana. These men, it was alleged, were to train and assist Botswana's Defence Force against possible aggression from South Africa. Secondly, Gen Malan said, the SAS were to help Botswana pursue terrorists.

Regarding the second point, Gen Malan said he appreciated Botswana's attitude towards terrorists.

"As for the first point, I want to say to Botswana: Let us be realistic." Botswana did not need to fear any aggression from the SA Defence Force and did not need to prepare herself for such an eventuality.

"Our action is against terrorists; it is not against Botswana or any other neighbouring country. I want to go further. In the spirit of the state president's invitation to neighbouring countries to implement a joint security mechanism, we are prepared to help Botswana," Gen Malan said. "We are prepared to train her troops to combat terrorists."

Gen Malan said if Botswana were serious, she could easily react positively to the state president's invitation. Botswana did not have to turn to Britain.

Botswana could turn to South Africa so that both countries could build on mutual interests in this part of the world.

Ray Swart Named Leader of PFP Parliamentary Caucus

MB201647 Johannebsurg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] It is reported from Cape Town that the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] member of Parliament for Berea, Mr Ray Swart, has been elected chairman of the party's parliamentary caucus in place of Mr Colin Eglin who was elected acting leader of the PFP. This was announced by the PFP's chief whip, Mr Brian Bamford. The member of Parliament for Constantia, Mr Roger Hulley, was elected vice chairman of the caucus in Mr Swart's place.

New Transkei President Ndamase Sworn In

MB201258 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The third president of Transkei, Paramount Chief Tutor Ndamase, was sworn into office during a ceremony in the Anglican cathedral in Umtata this morning. South Africa was represented at the swearing-in by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and his deputy, Mr Ron Miller. The event was also attended by President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana and President Patrick Mphephu of Venda. The inauguration service was conducted by the bishop of St John's, The Most Reverend (B. Dlamini). President Ndamase took the oath of office before the Transkeian chief justice, Mr Justice Tobias van Reenen.

Later President Ndamase addressed the Transkeian nation at Independence Stadium, where he said that Transkei was a Third World African country, but, he said, events in Transkei were not typical of an African state, where presidents and rulers were either assassinated or removed from presidencies by military coups. President Ndamase said that Transkei would cling to its traditional principles. He said that the president was a symbol of the unity of the entire nation.

Delivers First Address

MB201349 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1342 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Umtata, Feb 20, SAPA — The new state president of Transkei, Paramount Chief Tutor Ndamase, today said Transkei was looking with admiration at the constitutional evolution that was taking place in South Africa, which was a bastion of Western civilisation on the African Continent.

Chief Ndamase was delivering his first address to the Transkei nation shortly after he had been sworn in as the third state president of Transkei since 1976.

"I want to assure you ladies and gentlemen, that is through these difficult and turbulent times we can develop a new and greater concern and care for one another, we can create a kind of society that will be unique and be a beacon of light for the world to see.

"In Transkei we are a fully-fledged independent nation, a community of people associated with a particular territory and therefore complying in all respects with the requisites for full statehood.

"Transkei's activity encompassed a very wide scope in both bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations and has evolved under the very complex and generally difficult conditions of a country whose very essence places her always in the front lines of the struggle for peace, progress and democratisation of international relations.

"I sincerely appeal to you as Transkeians and parents of our children to inculcate the correct moral values in our children, because Transkei faces the challenges and opportunities not only of her own changed statutes but also of the last quarter of the 20th century.

"What will be needed most of all, perhaps, will be flexible and imaginative approaches to education, readiness for change and a willingness to jettison conventional attitudes," he said. The new president urged Transkeians in all walks of life to work hard in the capacities in which they served their country, as only hard work would build a nation.

Bill Gives President Power To Remove Restrictions

MB201646 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A new bill has been published in Cape Town which gives the state president wide-ranging powers to suspend laws which curtail economic progress. Patrick Cull is in Parliament.

[Cull] The temporary removal of restrictions of economic activities bill is aimed at cutting through the red tape that prevents the development of the informal business sector. The memorandum attached to the bill points out that people in the informal sector are often unable to meet the strict legal requirements for the carrying on of trade. This act will allow the state president to remove these restrictions after consultations with the cabinet and so encourage economic development and provide employment.

Free Trade Areas Opening in Johannesburg, Durban

MB201529 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Free trade areas are to be opened in the central business districts [CBD's] of Johannesburg and Durban tomorrow. At the same time, a proclamation takes effect in terms of which the owners of certain businesses in free trade areas will be able to decide for themselves whom they are prepared to receive on their premises.

The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, says in a statement released in Cape Town that the proclamation of the free trade areas will appear in the *GOVERNMENT GAZETTE* tomorrow. Cape Town's free trade area will also be proclaimed soon and another 60 applications are being investigated. The proclamation means that members of all population groups will now be able to obtain occupation and ownership rights of premises in the proclaimed areas. This applies to trade, commercial, professional, or religious and educational undertakings as determined in existing twon planning schemes.

Mr Heunis also announced that the government had taken steps to clear up any possible uncertainty that might arise as to the occupation of restaurants, cinemas, and similar premises within free trade areas.

In terms of the proclamation which will appear in the *GOVERN MENT GAZETTE* tomorrow, the owners of such premises will be able to decide for themselves whom they are prepared to allow on their premises. Until now, occupation permits had been needed in such cases. Mr Heunis said this moved the onus from the government to the owner of the property concerning whom the owner on his premises. He said the step was a continuation of the government's program to eliminate discrimination and proof of the government's serious intention to give all population groups admission to the economic system.

In Johannesburg, the free trade area stretches from the station and the railway line north of the CBD to the M2 highway in the south and from End and Siemert Streets in the east to the M1 highway in the west. In Durban, the free trade area includes the CBD, the Point Road area and the Indian business district around Grey Street.

Johannesburg Hails Opening

MB201801 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1759 GMT
20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — The Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce today welcomed the proclamation opening the city's central business district [CBD] to trade by all race groups as a step of "considerable significance."

Mr Pat Corbin, president of the chamber, saw the move as another "practical action by the government in the total dismantling of apartheid." For the first time, he said, the prevalence of the Group Areas Act — one of the cornerstones of the "apartheid edifice" — would not longer apply albeit in a demarcated area and for a specific purpose. The concept could be extended, he said.

"What is good for the business community must ultimately be to the advantage of all," he said, adding that "until and unless all vestiges of apartheid are removed from the statute books this country will not be in a position to address the many vital problem areas.

"Let's get on with what we all know needs to be done. Time is not on our side," he said.

Opening of Durban Praised

MB201753 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1738 GMT
20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Durban, Feb 20, SAPA — Mr John Pohl, deputy executive director of the Natal Chamber of Industries, said the move to open trading in Durban's CBD to all races would be very favourably received by South Africa's overseas trading partners.

"In the past we have been viewed as a country that talks about reform and tends to do very little. This is a profound and welcome move by the government and one which goes a long way towards the normalisation of relations in our country."

Mr Gordon Haygarth, Durban's town clerk, said he had supported the initiatives and had submitted applications to open the Durban's CBD some time ago. "We are very pleased to hear that our efforts have come to fruition. But we will continue to apply to have other areas of the city opened up to all-race trading purposes."

ASSOCOM Welcomes Free Trade Areas

MB201815 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1806 GMT
20 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — ASSOCOM [Association of Chambers of Commerce] tonight welcomed the announcement concerning the establishment of free trading areas in Johannesburg and Durban saying it was an important step in the right direction." [quotation marks as received]

"It is gratifying to note that all race groups will now be able to enjoy rights of both ownership and occupation in these free trading areas. It is imperative that South Africa continues rapidly along the road of enlarging participation in the private enterprise system for all race groups.

ASSOCOM also endorsed the measures to be introduced to enable establishments such as restaurants and cinemas in free trading areas to exercise their right to admit persons of any class or race group to their premises, an ASSOCOM statement to SAPA said.

"In line with recommendations of the 1984 Strydom committee report into the Group Areas Act and related legislation, ASSOCOM hopes that the latest decision to allow places of public entertainment to be opened to all races in free trading areas will eventually be extended elesewhere."

Poll Shows Urban Whites Accepting Open Schools

MB200841 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0742 GMT
20 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — Most urban white South Africans would either accept or welcome the opening of white schools to children of all races, according to a Gallup Poll conducted recently.

The poll, conducted by an independent research group among 1,000 whites in the urban areas, also revealed that 67 per cent of Afrikaans-speaking whites strongly opposed the idea, compared with 24 per cent English-speaking whites.

"Acknowledging that an urgent solution is needed to black dissatisfaction with the education their children receive and that the state has inadequate funds to provide equal facilities in the short term, 17 per cent of urban whites welcome the idea of integrated schools, and a further 38 per cent would accept the move," the Narkinor Research Group said.

The rest — 44 per cent — rejected the idea of white children being educated alongside blacks.

Seventy-five per cent of English speaking whites either welcomed or accept the idea, compared with 33 per cent of Afrikaans speaking whites.

Cape Town (68 per cent) and Durban (62 per cent) were the cities most willing to accept open schools, followed by 51 per cent in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area, the research group found.

In other metropolitan areas, which the group did not mention, this viewpoint was in the minority with 47 per cent.

Higher income groups were more positive about open schools, with 64 per cent of households with an income exceeding R2000 a month willing to accept open schools. This compared with 50 per cent for those earning less than R2000.

The group found "surprisingly perhaps, the views of adults with and without children are not as markedly different as one might have expected. Fifty-two per cent of parents would welcome or accept mixed schools, compared with 58 per cent of those without children.

Police Pledge No Mass Raids in Alexandra

MB210600 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2239 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — Senior police officers last night reassured leaders of Alexandra Civic Association (ACA) there would be no mass raids on residents in the township, according to Mr Dave Dalling, the PFP [Progressive Federal Party] member of Parliament for Sandton.

Mr Dalling was last night called to the township by members of the ACA who alleged that police were conducting house to house raids and arresting children. Mr Dalling tonight told SAPA he had met police officers in the township last night who assured him, in the presence of ACA leaders, that there would be no mass raiding in the township. He said he had not been able to establish whether the raids had actually taken place before his arrival. However, he noted that there have been a series of individual detentions in the township.

Mr Dalling said the assurance was in line with undertakings made by police in their talks with civic leaders and churchmen, including Bishop Desmond Tutu, on Tuesday.

Confirm Union Leader's Detention

MB210802 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0727 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 21, SAPA — Police today confirmed the detention of prominent trade unionist, Mr Moses Mayekiso, Transvaal Branch Secretary of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU). The union said last night Mr Mayekiso was arrested on Tuesday in Alexandra Township, just outside Sandton, and was being detained under the emergency regulations. This means he will be detained for at least 14 days.

Mr Mayekiso was due to leave for the United Kingdom on Tuesday to represent MAWU in important talks with British unions on a long and bitter South African workers' dispute with the British multinational BTR [expansion unknown] in Howick, Natal.

MAWU has appealed to local and overseas trade unions to put maximum pressure onthe South African Government to release Mr Mayekiso, a MAWU spokesman said. This is not the first time Mr Mayekiso has been held. He was one of the organisers of the stay-away in November 1984. Shortly after the stay-away, Mr Mayekiso was arrested. Charges of economic sabotage against him were withdrawn. He was arrested again with a number of other people during a May Day demonstration outside the Johannesburg city hall on May 1 last year. He was also one of the crowd of people who were rearrested when they staged a march following their bail application in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court.

Mr Mayekiso was also a member of the interim executive committee of the Transvaal region of the Congress of South African Trade Unions. "We are very concerned about his safety. All the COSATU locals are discussing his detention," the MAWU spokesman said.

Mob of 80 Goes on Rampage Outside Durban

MB210817 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0816 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Durban, Feb 21, SAPA — A mob of about 80 people went on the rampage yesterday at a shopping centre bordering KwaMashu, outside Durban, shattering display windows, looting a doctors surgery and stealing about R100. Police said the mob stoned two stores, then looted the surgery. When police arrived, the mob ran into nearby sugarcane fields.

The two shopowners were reluctant to speak about their ordeal yesterday, fearing that publicity of the incident would only encourage similar attacks. However, one person said that about 3.30pm the mob arrived from KwaMashu and began to stone the two shops.

"We managed to close our shop in time and get away. Luckily our premises are heavily burglar-guarded and they could not get inside. We are armed, but when there is such a big group we can't use our guns," he said.

The mob forced the driver of a heavy-duty truck to stop, pushed him out of the vehicle and then escaped into KwaMashu.

2 Large Arms Caches Found in Free State

MB211117 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The police have just announced in Pretoria that two weapons caches containing a large quantity of Soviet origin were found near Ficksburg and Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State on Tuesday.

A police spokesman said in Pretoria that an investigation had brought to light that a group of suspected terrorists entered South Africa from Lesotho a while ago to establish the caches.

A large quantity of arms including AK-47 rifles, AKM rifles, hand grenades, and a large amount of ammunition was found. Two black men, who allegedly underwent training to handle the weapons in Lesotho, Angola, and the Soviet Union, were arrested by the police at Gumtree between Clocolan and Ficksburg. A third suspected terrorist managed to escape and is believed to be heading for Lesotho. The investigation is continuing.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 20 Feb

MB201737 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1734 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 20, SAPA — Following is the SA police 7pm unrest situation report:

"Port Natal

"In Kwamashu, various incidents of stonethrowing at the police took place. One black male, 26 years; one black man under 18; one black female under 18 were wounded and arrested. Another black man was also arrested when stones were thrown at a police vehicle.

"In Umlazi, two black males under 18 were arrested after furniture had been set alight at a school.

"Soweto, Johannesburg

"A private vehicle was stoned and another private vehicle was petrol-bombed. A post office vehcle was set alight and a black male was also set alight by a mob of blacks. His condition is serious and is being treated in hospital.

"KwaNdebele

"Two black males above 18 were arrested for public violence after a stonethrowing incident.

"West Rand, Kagiso

"Two vehicles belonging to the development board were set alight by arsonists and a delivery vehicle was destroyed after it was set alight by arsonists. A black man was wounded and arrested in New Brighton near Steysburg and has died in hospital."

Ends report.

Early 21 Feb

MB210635 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0605 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 21, SAPA — Here is the police unrest report up to 8am issued by the SAP's Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

"At present 278 people are being held in terms of the emergency regulations.

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Bridgeton coloured residential area near Oudtshoorn, blacks set light to a coloured male. He was badly burnt.

"In Soweto (Witwatersrand), a number of buses, private and delivery vehicles were stoned. The driver of one of the buses was slightly injured when struck by a stone. In the same area, a private vehicle was petrol-bombed and extensively damaged.

"In the black residential area near Machadodorp, in the eastern Transvaal, a private vehicle was extensively damaged by stone-throwers.

"At Zwide in the Eastern Province, police vehicles were stoned on a number of occasions and a shop was petrol-bombed. No serious damage was caused. Police arrested a man after one of the stonethrowing incidents.

"In Guguletu, buses, police and private vehicles were stoned. Damage was slight. Police arrested five youths.

"At Edenvale near Pietermaritzburg, a bus was stoned. A black man was injured by the mob.

"At Itembeni near Prieska a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

"In Soshanguve, near Pretoria a private vehicle was extensively damaged when it was petrol-bombed."

Report ends.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report] **Youth Groups Appeal for End of 'Thuggery'** "Several Pretoria youth organisations yesterday appealed to Soweto residents to come together and stamp out thuggery in the area," says a report on page 4 of the Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 20 February. A joint statement by the Mamelodi Youth Organization, Soshanguve Youth Organization, Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organization and the Ekangala Youth Organization noted with concern escalating black-on-black violence in the area, and appealed to Soweto youth organizations "to educate the people and stop thugs from harassing innocent people."

SOWETAN Urges Low Police Profile

The editorial on page 6 asks why President Botha and the other cabinet members cannot take action to make the police and other forces in the townships "cool things." "It will not cost them much simply to have a low profile when things get out of hand." It also criticizes the "almost criminal damage that the state media are creating by misinforming the country about what is actually going on."

Railway Workers May Strike Over Wages

"Mainstream public servants, teachers and postal workers have been cautiously enthusiastic about the 10 percent salary increase they are to receive from April 1 — but angry railway workers are threatening strike action," Sue Leeman reports on page 1 of Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 20 February. A South African Transport Services staff spokesman "has warned the situation is 'explosive,' saying railway workers may lay down tools in protest if their demand for another 15 percent is not met." "Head of the white Public Servants Association, Dr Coling Cameron, said public servants were thankful for the increase but had hoped for 13 percent."

Company Supports Black Use of PE Beaches

A report on page 3 says that General Motors South Africa has said it would "give legal and financial support to any of its black employees who defied" the Port Elizabeth City Council and used city beaches. A council committee recently voted to prosecute blacks "'trespassing'" on white beaches. "General Motors is Port Elizabeth's biggest private employer with 3,500 workers, 60 percent of whom are blacks."

Police Presence at Meeting Protested

"More than 350 people stormed out of a People's Education Committee (PEC) meeting in Patidar Hall in Lenasia last night in protest against the police who were present in the hall with a video camera," *THE STAR* reports on page 5. "The crowd demonstrated, shouting: 'Out dogs, out,' amid foot stomping and loud clapping after riot police refused to leave the premises." Two previous PEC meetings were banned by police.

Inkatha, Afrikaans Youth Cooperating

The Inkatha Youth Brigade and the newly formed Afrikaans youth group "Jeugkrag" (Youth Power) have announced that they would deliver a joint memorandum to President Botha expressing their concern for the future of South Africa, *THE STAR* reports on page 17. The president of the Jeugkrag said it will be "'the first time that the Government will have the ideas of both the Afrikaner and black youth together.'" The two groups also plan to hold a joint political congress in May.

Agitators Blamed for Alexandra Unrest

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 20 February carries a report by Tony Stirling which says: "Police have evidence that agitators from outside Alexandra township have been stirring up unrest in the area." Residents who sought refuge at the Sandton police station this week said "agitators from Mamelodi — and possibly elsewhere — entered Alexandra before the start of the trouble at the weekend." "The allegations included reports of agitators entering homes in the township and forcing children out into the streets to join those erecting barricades."

Media Ban Criticized

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 19 February says in an editorial on page 10: "We understand that the unrest has created difficult circumstances for the police." Unfortunately, it seems as if the police do not always take note of the media's difficult position, and newsmen have been hindered in carrying out their reporting duties. "It is time to reconsider the restrictions on media presence in unrest situations and to discuss the matter."

SAP, Rail Police Merger Eyed

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 20 February says in an article on page 12 that legislation to incorporate the South African Railways Police into the SAP is expected to be promulgated during the present session of Parliament. This announcement was made by Transport Minister Schoeman in Parliament Wednesday.

Warning to SWAPO

Windhoek *DIE REPUBLIKEIN* in Afrikaans on 18 February says in an article of page 3 that "Administrator General Louis Pienaar has warned SWAPO not to underestimate the will and determination of the parties who have decided on a path of negotiation instead of violence." He said SWAPO would be a poor substitute for a South African-appointed government for the territory.